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**ISSUE 302 OCTOBER 2016**

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## NATURAL HEALTH PRODUCTS ARE NOT DRUGS

**Fracking LNG : Lying Nasty Greed**  
**Syria regime change pipeline deceit**  
**Protect nature, climate, water, farmland**  
**Protect Peace River Valley : Stop Site C Dam**

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# Site C and LNG a tenuous relationship

by Eoin Finn B.Sc., Ph.D., MBA



*The relationship between the LNG industry and the Site C's power is tenuous at best. To date, four LNG plants – LNG Canada, Kitimat LNG, Woodfibre LNG and now Pacific NorthWest LNG – have received export licenses and environmental certificates from Canada's Governments. Only one – the small-scale Woodfibre plant in Vancouver's Howe Sound – will use grid electricity to power its liquefaction process. All the much-larger plants will each burn about 10 percent of their gas intake to power the minus 162°C refrigeration process. If built, they would together add about 30 million tonnes to BC's annual carbon emissions – a 50 percent increase. Upstream emissions would at least double that.*

**W**hen I first settled in Vancouver in 1978, I went to a Canadian Club lunch. The guest speaker was BCHydro's CEO, who sternly warned the audience that, unless he got the OK to build three nuclear plants, the coal-fired Hat Creek and the Site C dam, we would in future have to munch on sushi in the dark. That was my introduction to "hydronomics", and the engineers who want to keep on building dams – proving that, if all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.

Of course, none of these plants were ever built. Surprise – the lights are still on. Indeed, demand for electric power in BC has flat-lined for the past 10 years. While adding a quarter million new residential accounts, heavy industry's demand has steadily fallen, largely as a result of the precipitous decline of our pulp and paper industry. That doubling of rates in those 10 years has only encouraged greater conservation efforts, much to BCHydro's chagrin.

Can we be any more sure of BCHydro's demand projections now, in light of those gushy '70s pronouncements? That seems unlikely. The Review Panel examining the project was not convinced. In its efforts to justify spending \$9 billion of ratepayers money on a Site C gamble, BCHydro didn't come up with anything resembling a convincing argument. Small wonder. BC's 1.8 Million Residential customers won't need Site C's power.

Neither will those LNG plants. Stretched by thin world markets and even thinner LNG prices, they will generate their own electricity. *continued pg 31 ...*

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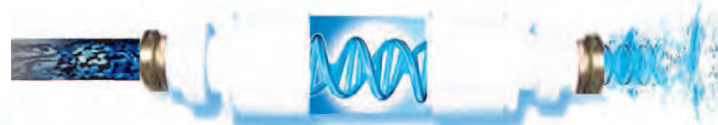
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# Monsanto tribunal in The Hague

**F**or an increasing number of people from around the world, Monsanto today is the symbol of industrial agriculture. This chemical-intensive form of production pollutes the environment, accelerates biodiversity loss, and massively contributes to global warming.

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, Monsanto, a US-based company, has developed a number of highly toxic products, which have permanently damaged the environment and caused illness or death for thousands of people. These products include:

- PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl), one of the twelve Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP) that affect human and animal fertility;
- 2,4,5 T (2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid), a dioxin-containing component of the defoliant, Agent Orange, which was used by the US Army during the Vietnam War and continues to cause birth defects and cancer;
- Lasso, an herbicide that is now banned in Europe;
- and RoundUp, the most widely used herbicide in the world, and the source of the greatest health and environmental scandal in modern history - this toxic herbicide is used in combination with genetically modified (GM) RoundUp Ready seeds in large-scale monocultures, primarily to produce soybeans, maize and rape-seed for animal feed and biofuels.

Monsanto promotes an agroindustrial model that contributes at least one third of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions; it is also largely responsible for the depletion of soil and water resources, species extinction and declining biodiversity, and the displacement of millions of small farmers worldwide. This is a model that threatens peoples' food sovereignty by patenting seeds and privatizing life.

**According to its critics, Monsanto is able to ignore the human and environmental damage caused by its products and maintain its devastating activities through a strategy of systemic concealment**

According to its critics, Monsanto is able to ignore the human and environmental damage caused by its products and maintain its devastating activities through a strategy of systemic concealment: by lobbying regulatory agencies and governments, by financing fraudulent scientific studies, by pressuring independent scientists, by manipulating the press and media, etc. The history of Monsanto would thereby constitute a text-book case of impunity,

benefiting transnational corporations and their executives, whose activities contribute to climate and biosphere crises and threaten the safety of the planet.

The Monsanto Tribunal, which will be held in The Hague from 14 to 16 October 2016, aims to assess these allegations made against Monsanto, and to evaluate the damages caused by this transnational company. The Tribunal will rely on the "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights" adopted at the UN in 2011. It will also assess potential criminal liability on the basis of the Rome Statute that created the International Criminal Court in The Hague in 2002. The Tribunal shall also assess the conduct of Monsanto as regards the crime of ecocide, which it has been proposed to include in international criminal law. It shall examine whether the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court in force since 2002 should be reformed, in order to include the crime of ecocide and to allow for the prosecution of individual and legal entities suspected of having committed this crime.

Aware of these planetary stakes, the initiators of the Monsanto Tribunal are appealing to civil society and to all citizens of the world to participate in financing this unique operation through a big international crowdfunding campaign.

Defending the safety of the planet, and the conditions of life itself, concerns us all. Only collective action can stop this machine of destruction! *continued pg 31 ...*

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\*Reference: Anti-Influenza virus activities of commercial oregano oils and their carriers. Journal of Applied Pharmaceutical Science 2012; 02(07) 214-18.



# Natural health products are *not* drugs

## Tell Health Canada to leave our NHPs alone

by Helen Long

**H**ealth Canada has recently launched the Consulting Canadians on the Regulation of Self-Care Products in Canada document.

Previously referred to as the Consumer Health Product Framework, this document has changed dramatically since its original inception, and proposes that, in the future, many natural health products (NHPs) be regulated using the same rules as drugs. We want to make one thing clear: natural health products are *not* drugs. Health Canada is proposing changes that could:

- Cause many of the supplements that you use to disappear forever.
- Increase the cost of the products that are left.
- Reduce the amount of information available to you about the natural health products you rely on.

Help us stop this by sending a message to your Member of Parliament, letting him or her know *this is not OK*. You can do this in less than a minute. Send a letter to your MP today stating you want to be able to continue to access natural health products. Visit [www.chfa.ca](http://www.chfa.ca) and on the homepage click on Save our Supplements.

When you walk into your local Canadian Health Food Association (CHFA)

member health food store, you can find all kinds of safe, effective and high-quality natural health products (NHPs) that 77 percent of Canadians use for the maintenance of good health.

Whether you choose a vitamin, mineral, probiotic or herbal product, you can be confident the Canadian regulations that already exist for these products are among the best in the world.

The Canadian approach to regulation is often referred to as a “pre-approval” system, which means that all natural health products (NHPs) must be licensed by Health Canada *before* they are legally allowed to be sold to Canadians.

No NHP can be licensed for sale in Canada without providing evidence to support the claims being made. The level of evidence required for NHPs seeking approval in Canada depends on the claim being made, the overall risk of the product, and the condition it is being used for.

A product such as a multivitamin that makes a claim, for instance, that it “helps with the maintenance of good health” will have to provide different evidence than an omega-3 that makes the claim that it “helps to reduce serum triglycerides and support brain function.” This evidence could include clinical trial data or refer-



ences to published studies, journals, pharmacopoeias and traditional resources.

Each product that is licensed receives a Natural Product Number or NPN, which is printed on the front of the package. You can look up this NPN in Health Canada’s online database (visit [www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca) and search for NHP numbers database), which provides details including what is in the product and which claims have been approved based on the evidence submitted and reviewed by Health Canada.

When you buy an NHP at your local CHFA Member health food store, you can feel confident knowing the company selling that product has provided evidence to

support any health claims made.

Health Canada is now proposing a framework that could significantly alter the way that NHPs are currently regulated under the existing NHP Regulations, and instead wants to regulate some NHPs using the same rules as drugs, based, it appears, on a single consumer survey and six weeks of consultation.

This proposal is trying to fix a system that is not broken and it will be a step backward instead of forward. Our current regulations take into account the unique properties and low-risk nature of these products, ensuring you have access to NHPs that are *cont’d next page ...*

## Industry feedback

**H**ealth Canada has suddenly decided to blow up the Natural Health Product regulations – regulations that, finally, in the last few years are starting to function properly.

Health Canada is proposing to cancel 100,000 licenses that our industry and government spent millions of dollars and countless hours developing. Canada is now the gold standard around the world for the regulation of this sector and Health Canada wants to abolish that.

Health Canada must be stopped and Canadians’ right to purchase safe, effective supplements with health claims must be preserved. Please write your MP; go to [www.chfa.ca](http://www.chfa.ca) and click on Save our Supplements on the homepage to send your letter.

In 1999, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health extensively studied the issue and consulted Canadians from coast to coast for almost a full year. The Committee made 53 recommendations on how to regulate supplements in Canada, including:

“NHPs should be allowed to make health claims, including structure-function claims, risk-reduction claims and treatment claims” and “The evidence [for NHPs should] not be limited to double blind clinical trials, but also include other types of evidence such as generally accepted and traditional references, professional consensus, other types of clinical trials and other clinical or scientific evidence.”

Based on this feedback, in 2004, Health Canada introduced the Natural Health Product Regulations,

Health Canada is proposing to cancel 100,000 licenses that our industry and government spent millions of dollars and countless hours developing.

and over the past 12 years, industry and government have worked together to regulate an industry that supplies safe and effective natural health products to Canadians.

Blowing up the regulations will have a devastating impact on the natural health industry in Canada and cost us thousands of jobs. It will also severely limit Canadians’ access to these products. *continued p.20...*



safe, effective and of high quality, while respecting consumers' freedom of choice and the philosophical and cultural diversity of our country.

Changing the way NHPs are regulated will have an impact on the products you will find on your store shelves. Providing the evidence required for drugs is vastly expensive, which is why the price for drugs is significantly higher compared to NHPs. Requiring the same level of evidence as a drug will result in price increases and loss of product from shelves.



Health Canada is now proposing a framework that could significantly alter the way that NHPs are currently regulated under the existing NHP Regulations, and instead wants to regulate some NHPs using the same rules as drugs, based, it appears, on a single consumer survey and six weeks of consultation.

Currently, all NHPs on store shelves are reviewed, licensed and receive an NPN.

This proposal suggests that Health Canada will no longer review some of the products and those products not reviewed will be required to have a disclaimer in line with "Health Canada has not reviewed..." Additionally, claims based on previously accepted evidence may no longer be allowed and would be removed from the label. This will limit the amount of information the consumer receives about the product.

Help us ensure you continue to have access to the NHPs you know and love. Visit [chfa.ca](http://chfa.ca) right now to send a message to your Member of Parliament, letting them know these changes are not acceptable. It will only take a minute and it will make a big difference in ensuring you continue to have access to your favourite natural health products.

**Helen Long** is the president of the Canadian Health Food Association (CHFA). The CHFA is the voice of the natural health industry in Canada, and Canada's largest trade association dedicated to natural health and organic products. Its members include manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers, distributors and importers of natural and organic products. These can include foods, vitamin and mineral supplements, herbal products, homeopathics, sports nutrition products, health and beauty aids and more. [www.chfa.ca](http://www.chfa.ca)

# The noose tightens Health Canada's powers expand with the Wookey decision

by Shawn Buckley

**M**any of the broad powers that created concern years ago with Bill C-51 are now law in the *Food and Drugs Act*. The only saving grace is they do not yet apply to natural health products because of the public backlash that readers like you created during the Bill C-51 fight. Eventually, I predict the broad powers we were all concerned about will apply to natural products. A story, or stories, about harm caused by natural products will cir-



This move to make illegal anything not specifically approved of by the government is not restricted to food and drugs. It covers all areas of our lives, even speech. Indeed, so much of our regular activities have become criminalized, that if anyone asked me, as a lawyer, to give them a summary of what is illegal I would say, "Living is illegal."

culate in the media, and calls for imposing the broad powers on natural products will be made. Armed with the public cry for protection, the government will dutifully comply and expand the powers to cover natural health products. At that point, anyone involved in natural health could be completely and totally destroyed financially and jailed for long periods for not complying with Health Canada demands, regardless of how



photo © Iija Masik

The Ontario Court of Appeal found that a drug is any substance that modifies an organic function. That definition would include water.

unfounded they may be and regardless of whether complying will cause harm or death to others.

Less noticed is the expansion of Health Canada's powers by Court decisions. What occurs is after decades of Health Canada interpreting the *Food and Drugs Act* in one way, it changes its interpretation to expand its powers. Eventually, someone challenges them in Court to say the "new interpretation" is wrong. When this happens, the Court is faced with having to choose which Health Canada interpretation to accept: the original one often followed for many decades or the new one. Unfortunately, in a couple of key decisions, the Court has sided with Health Canada's new interpretations.

The first Court decision, which I have written about before, is *Strauss Enterprises Ltd. v. Canada*. This is a 2008 decision of the Federal Court. At the time, the list of drugs available by prescription was set out in a Regulation called Schedule F. Anything on the prescription drug list was subject to restrictive regulations aimed at ensuring that prescription drugs were only available through doctors and pharmacists. This was necessary as many of the prescription drugs were extremely dangerous, even with doctor and pharmacist supervision. The prescription drug list was, and is, primarily a list of chemical substances. It did, *continued p.30...*





# Leave our prostates alone

Healthcare must engage in a wider discussion about preventive medicine

“Preventive medicine displays all three elements of arrogance...Aggressively assertive...Presumptuous...Overbearing.” Dr. David Sackett wrote those words over a decade ago in a neat little column in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. He was, in this case, talking about hormone replacement therapy, after the publication of one of the world’s largest studies in preventive healthcare. The results of the Women’s Health Initiative showed that giving estrogen and progestin to healthy women going through menopause, on the assumption that this was vital preventive medicine, did not protect them from cardiovascular disease. In fact, it increased rates of some forms of cancer, heart attacks, blood clots and strokes. In trying to preserve and protect health, the recommended therapies were harming women. On a massive scale, I should add.

By way of background, I need to tell you it took many years – and probably cost many thousands of lives – before that study was launched. It took lobbying by independent women’s health advocates years to convince the research world they needed better proof that women’s lives were being improved by taking hor-

mone replacement every day after they reached menopause. The Women’s Health Initiative, a high-quality randomized trial, was eventually funded and ran for seven years. The results dropped like a bombshell on the medical world and was, as some said, “the day the music died” for hormone replacement therapy.

**The men who were treated – with surgery and chemotherapy – didn’t live any longer than those who weren’t.**

For me, Sackett scored a direct hit with his words and reminded me that humility is a human virtue often in short supply in the medical world. He was right to say we need to seriously rethink the “arrogance” of preventive medicine, which *aggressively asserts* itself into peoples’ lives, rudely claiming people will only benefit from it. It is also “presumptuous,” assuming with an overweening confidence it will do more good than harm, even when there is insufficient evidence to defend that confidence. And quoting Sackett, “preventive medicine is “overbearing,” attack-

ing those who question the value of its recommendations.”

Well, let me tell you, as someone who bears some scars over the years from calling out preventive medicine’s arrogance, last month provided me a little salve for the soul with new research around the way we try to prevent prostate cancer. For over two decades, men have been told that, once reaching the age of 50, they needed to get a PSA test. After all, wouldn’t you want to do something so simple if it protected you from a horrible death from prostate cancer? No doubt, we have all lost fathers and brothers from this disease, which is horrible, yet thankfully much more rare than we are led to believe.

A study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* examined more than 1,600 men in the UK, aged 50 to 69, diagnosed with localized prostate cancer. This is typically diagnosed with a “high” PSA or prostate specific antigen reading that is obtained from a simple blood test. While many other things besides prostate cancer can cause a higher than normal PSA reading, it is usually a sign that something needs to be done. The big question is if you’re diagnosed with prostate cancer, should you get surgery, drugs or just ‘do nothing’ and wait and see what happens?

*continued p.24...*

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# Canadians want climate plan, not fracked LNG

On October 2, when Canada's environment ministers met in Montreal, they were made aware of how Canadians view key climate issues. Topping the list: the majority (66%) of Canadians support an effective climate plan to meet targets.

The new public opinion research revealed a substantial majority of respondents (70%) believe climate change is a significant threat to Canada's economic future. It also found that 60% support a price on carbon emissions everywhere in the country.

The survey of 1,000 Canadians, conducted by Nanos Research for Clean Energy Canada, was released as federal, provincial and territorial environment ministers gathered to prepare for a First Ministers' Meeting on climate change later this year.

"The public is sending a clear signal. They're tired of bickering among politicians," reported Merran Smith, Clean Energy's executive director. "Canadians want to see provinces do their part, but they also want the federal government to pick up the slack if provinces don't deliver necessary results."

Key findings include: 77% support a national plan that ensures Canada achieves its international climate change targets to reduce carbon emissions; 77% agree that provinces have an important responsibility to reduce carbon emissions by 2030; 66% support federal action if provinces and territories don't do enough.

The survey was conducted in the days and hours (September 24-27) leading up to the federal government's sudden, conditional approval of the massive Pacific NorthWest LNG on BC's northwest coast. One of the largest infrastructure investments in Canadian history, it was the Trudeau government's first

major energy decision, a litmus test of a national climate plan and energy infrastructure.

The 190 legally binding conditions include the first cap on greenhouse gas emissions. "I'm confident that we will address the most important environmental impacts to ensure this project proceeds in the most sustainable manner possible," Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna, told a September 27 news conference, which was interrupted by hecklers.

The \$36 billion natural gas project, led by Malaysia's tainted PETRONAS, would ship 19 million tonnes of fracked liquefied gas to markets in Asia annually, while pumping more than five million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere

"We have always understood that, in order to create the kind of government that people want, we need to both grow the economy and protect the environment," Trudeau told the House of Commons. "That means folding-in consultations with indigenous leaders, talking to communities, ensuring we get the world-class science done. That is exactly what we did on this project."

Calling Justin Trudeau "an outright liar," Donnie Wesley, the highest-ranking hereditary chief of the Gitwilygoots tribe – which has jurisdiction over

Lelu Island near Prince Rupert, where the LNG terminal would be built – said it was "a slap in the face." Mass protests are in the works and First Nations are launching myriad legal challenges.

The \$36 billion natural gas project, led by Malaysia's tainted PETRONAS, would ship 19 million tonnes of fracked liquefied gas to markets in Asia annually, while pumping more than five million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, making it one of Canada's largest single greenhouse gas emitters.

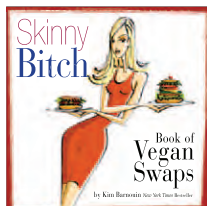
NDP Leader Tom Mulcair said Trudeau had "pivoted" on his promise to keep pipelines out of the Great Bear Rain Forest, less than 48 hours after visiting it with Royals Prince William and Kate. Mike Hudema of Greenpeace Canada added, "If this is what Trudeau meant when he said, 'Canada is back on climate,' then we, and the planet, are in big trouble."

In light of the survey, Clean Energy's Smith said, "Approving this project is inconsistent with the federal government's commitments to lead on climate change and clean innovation. The conditions that come with approval set the bar too low."

Data was collected through random land and cell phone calls, as well as online. Results were statistically checked and weighted by age and gender, using the latest Census information, and geographically stratified to be representative of Canada. The margin of error is  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20. This clearly indicates how much governments are out of step with the large majority of Canadians who want to join the rest of the world in the quick march away from dirty fossil fuel, including fracked gas, which is glutting markets and is now widely considered to be more harmful than coal. ■

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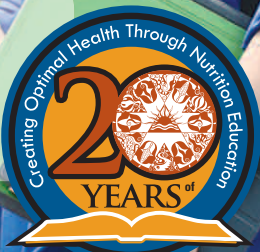
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**Nutrispeak** Vesanto Melina

**HEALTH**

# The carnitine controversy

**C**arnitine is an amino acid, important for our body's transportation of fatty acids to the area in the cells where the fatty acids can be burned for energy production. For this reason, carnitine has been marketed as a fat-burning support. A very small number of people – about one in 40,000 – have a genetic condition in which they cannot move carnitine to the areas where it is needed. One resulting symptom is muscle weakness, which may have led to the idea that carnitine can improve athletic performance, as carnitine has been marketed as a sports supplement. So far, research has not established its effectiveness.

As for its use in weight loss and improved sports performance, the American College of Sports Medicine, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and Dietitians of Canada list it as a supplement that “does not perform as claimed.”

Carnitine is found in beef and other meats; “*carni*” is from the Latin word for flesh or meat and the amino acid was first isolated from meat extract. It is far more concentrated in lamb (190 mg carnitine per 100 g lamb), beef (95 mg/100 g) and pork (28 mg/100 g) than in plant foods, apart from tempeh, which has significant amounts (20 mg/100 g). An avocado, peanut butter sandwich, bowl of lentil soup or potato each provide only about 2 mg/100 g.

**A very small number of people have a genetic condition in which they cannot move carnitine to where it is needed.**

Our body typically makes all the carnitine we need, apart from pre-term infants who require supplementary carnitine, or people on severely protein-deficient diets – such as alcoholics – whose diet lacks the amino acids and other nutrients from which they could build carnitine.

Intakes of carnitine are linked with heart disease and prostate cancer, however, the problem may not be the amino acid itself but a troublesome product formed from carnitine in the bodies of meat eaters. The mix of the intestinal bacteria differs between carnivores and vegetarians. The bacteria of meat-eaters can convert carnitine into trimethylamine, which is then oxidized in the liver to form TMAO (trimethylamine N-oxide). TMAO is associated with prostate cancer and with accelerated hardening of the arteries, heart disease and stroke. Avoiding meat gradually reduces the gut bacteria that turn carnitine into TMAO, while regular meat consumption encourages their growth and increases TMAO production. Thus, diet determines the amount of TMAO made by the body. Vegans completely lack these bacteria; even when fed carnitine, they don't produce TMAO because they lack the bacteria to do so.

Research shows the plasma carnitine levels of vegans to be somewhat lower than those of non-vegetarians, though within normal ranges. It seems that vegans maintain their adequate carnitine levels by efficient production and by limiting losses through the kidney.

A small proportion of people have found that supplemental carnitine can help to reduce their migraine headaches, hypoglycaemia or muscle weakness. Those with type 2 diabetes may improve LDL cholesterol levels. Our absorption capacity is limited to two grams (2000 mg) at a time. Intakes in the range of two to four grams per day can have side effects that include nausea, diarrhea and production of a fishy odour by the body. Carnitine is not to be taken during pregnancy or by those with thyroid problems or a history of seizures. 📌

**Vesanto Melina** is a Vancouver dietitian and co-author of award-winning books on plant-based nutrition. [www.nutrispeak.com](http://www.nutrispeak.com), [vesanto.melina@gmail.com](mailto:vesanto.melina@gmail.com)

**EVENT** (Date correction:) **Saturday October 22**, 7:30 pm: Vesanto speaks about vegetarian, vegan and raw nutrition at Eternal Abundance, 1025 Commercial Dr. [info@eternalabundance.ca](mailto:info@eternalabundance.ca), 604-817-1113 or 604-707-0088.



# Reach your own metamorphosis

*If you want to find the secrets of the universe, think in terms of energy, frequency and vibration.* – Nikola Tesla



Anya Petrovic

**T**esla Metamorphosis® changed my life, and that is why I share this with you. Maybe it will transform your life too. For more than 20 years I have worked in healing, and I haven't experienced anything similar to what I experienced in Tesla Metamorphosis®, as a client and as a practitioner. Anya Petrovic, the founder of Tesla Metamorphosis®, and author of the book *Tesla Metamorphosis: Heal & Evolve*, is coming from Australia for a series of events, including free presentations and seminars. Use this opportunity to experience it personally and discover how you too, can harness the power the legendary inventor Nikola Tesla worked with.

Unique for this method of healing is that Tesla Waves can be accessed. Unlike Hertzian, they get stronger with distance, allowing clients to report unprecedented effects on diseases that



Purple colour in auras

are considered incurable in orthodox medicine, such as cancer, AIDS, lupus, chronic fatigue syndrome, even healings from physically injured spine and birth deformities - usually after only three sessions. Most people are attracted to Tesla Metamorphosis® because of these healings, but Anya believes that the effect of Tesla Waves on elevating the human consciousness is even more important than healings. The phenomenon of the purple color in auras of students who attended Tesla Metamorphosis® seminar, registered by Polycontrast Interference Camera Photography, indicates that the frequencies of Tesla Waves can elevate their consciousness to the level of the Crown Chakra. That enables them to create communication with clients on the level of the conscious, subconscious and integrative mind, though they were not aware of such abilities before.

There are three modes in Tesla Metamorphosis: Tesla Healing Metamorphosis, Tesla Soul Communication and Tesla

Light Body Metamorphosis. I was fascinated the most with the process we call Tesla Soul Communication, where practitioners create communication with the client on all levels of consciousness. The practitioner writes down everything as it comes through, without correcting anything. This process might help clients to understand why they were preventing themselves from healing, or how and why they might be sabotaging themselves, or creating a situation or condition which was blocking them from going forward, from making a change. This could also help a client to find out the cause of an illness. When we reach communication on the level of integrative mind, this is the space through which we are all connected, the space of Love, of Truth. This is the level of the soul. That means that clients might achieve karmic healing, they could heal their karma. Further, the healer can go to the Source and bring a message for the client. These messages are not precious just because they can help the healing; they could be life-changing. They bring the inner being to the state of metamorphosis.

We learned how to perform Tesla Soul Communication at the Tesla Metamorphosis II seminar. The first exercise was done with photos. Each student brought a photo of somebody who needed healing. The photos were placed on the table face down. Each of us chose a photo to work on, avoiding the photo they brought. After finishing the communica-

**“This story is real. I live this story.  
It awakened a curious child in me again.  
It all started like a fairy tale, the fairy tale  
which was later scientifically confirmed,”  
explains Anya.**

tion with clients, we were reading what we got, and the person who brought the photo was giving the feedback. There was a great excitement in the class when we discovered that there were no doubts that we were communicating with this particular person! The one who brought the photo was able to recognize the style, bywords and attitude of the person in the photo. And everybody in the class was capable of doing it!

We keep in our subconscious mind many memories; thoughts, emotions, images, beliefs. Some of them are not pleasant. The events that were difficult to deal with, experiences that we want to forget, we push them into our subconscious mind. The problem is that they interfere with our life influencing our reactions, creating fears and illnesses. The process of Tesla Soul Communication helps us in bringing those issues from the subconscious to the conscious level, where we are able to deal with them and to transcend the problem. As Jung said: “Until you make the unconscious conscious, it will direct your life and you will call it fate.”

Tesla Soul Communication is equally important for both, clients and practitioners. Most of us believe that we know ourselves well. Actually, nobody can deceive us as successfully as we ourselves can do it. That is why it is a special challenge to do Tesla Soul Communication on oneself. This can help us on our journey of elevating our personal consciousness. We can get to know ourselves better, we can unveil some

truths we might be hiding from ourselves. This might help us understand better our reactions in some situations and clarify our true motives and goals. It could help us find our purpose. Anya highly recommends to practitioners to do it from time to time, citing Jung: “Anybody whose calling is to guide souls, should have his own soul guided first, so that he knows what it means to deal with the human soul.”

Some completely new phenomena are noted during sessions and seminars of Tesla Metamorphosis®, like light



**The source of the colours which appeared on the wall at the seminar in Kelowna and some other cities, is unknown.**

around some clients, balls of light floating above (orbs), colors on the wall in halls where seminars were being held, all visible to the naked eye. This attracts great interest among scientists, which is why Anya presented at the International Tesla Science Conference in Philadelphia, at the International Tesla Congress in Belgrade, and at the University of British Columbia in Canada.

All these phenomena, including healings, people tend to call “miracles”. Anya's book *TESLA METAMORPHOSIS – Heal and Evolve* is on the quest to understand miracles, and it reveals new knowledge. The answers are found in pioneering scientific research, and also in ancient wisdom. The subject of this book is expanded to understanding the healing phenomena in general, merging science and spirituality. Personal experiences are presented with childlike honesty and a genuine sense of humor. The spirit of Nikola Tesla is imbued throughout this book, giving it a new dimension. Tesla's ingenuity is in his spirituality. This man who made discoveries that all modern technology is based on, said: “The day science begins to study non-physical phenomena, it will make more progress in one decade, then in all previous centuries of its existence.”

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# Extra pounds (EP) = atherosclerosis (A2)

by Dr. W. Gifford-Jones

It's been said Einstein's  $E=mc^2$  (energy=mass x C speed of light squared) is the world's most important scientific equation. Unfortunately it created the atomic bomb that killed thousands in World War II. But I believe my equation  $EP = a2$  (extra pounds = atherosclerosis squared) is the world's important medical equation. Regrettably, it's killing millions of people every year, more than  $E=mc^2$ . Think again if you believe this is exaggerated.

Consider human obesity. Nothing, including the thousands of books on weight loss and diet, has been able to stop the epidemic of obesity, which gets worse worldwide every year.

Nor does anyone have the solution to the problem of increasing numbers of people developing type 2 diabetes. The U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that one in 13 North Americans has diabetes. And one in four over the age of 65 suffer from

this disease. Then there are an estimated 14 million people in North America who don't even know they have diabetes. And millions more have prediabetes, just one step away from diabetes and its complications. All these figures increase every year.

**The deadly trio of obesity, diabetes and heart attack will eventually bring our healthcare system to its knees.**

So how does this combination kill? It's because  $EP$  (extra pounds) =  $a2$  (atherosclerosis), causes the rust that collects in all of our arteries as we age. We have known for years that people who are obese or have diabetes or both always develop more of this deadly rust that is composed of fatty

deposits and cholesterol.

The deadly trio of obesity, diabetes and heart attack will eventually bring our health care system to its knees. Years ago, this scenario was rare. More people died from infection. Now, since we live longer, the Gifford-Jones law has a major effect on longevity with the development of degenerative diseases. Gifford-Jones law states that one disease often leads to another, and another. The best example is that obesity leads to type 2 diabetes and 50 percent of diabetics die of a heart attack due to atherosclerosis.

The problem isn't complicated. If all the toilets in the country stopped flushing due to plugged pipes, civilization, as we know it would quickly end. If the organs of our body lack oxygenated blood due to plugged arteries, our own lives on this planet end.

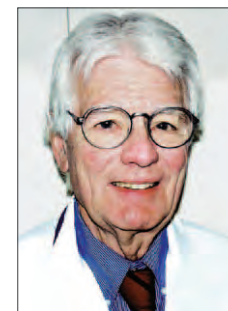
It's been said that you can whip a tired horse only so long before it drops. Extra pounds similarly put tremendous stress on the pancreas. It eventually collapses

and stops producing insulin. When I graduated from The Harvard Medical School 65 years ago, only five percent of people had type 2 diabetes and 95 percent was due to genetics. Now, 95 percent develop type 2 diabetes – better called lifestyle diabetes – due to obesity. And obese children usually become obese adults. This means they face the increased risk of blindness, kidney failure, leg amputation and heart attack.

Atherosclerosis is, therefore, the ultimate destroyer, gradually decreasing the amount of oxygenated blood and other nutrients that are necessary for all organs. Just as a car cannot run without gas, the pancreas and other organs falter without oxygen.

So what is going to happen in the future? The answer is that  $EP=a2$  will continue to kill more than Einstein's equation. The blunt truth is that only draconian measures by government and citizens will stem the epidemic of obesity and Type 2 diabetes. Hell will freeze over before that happens.

But there is a simple, natural way to put a dent in the progress of the nation's number one killer, heart attack. Research shows that high concentrations of vitamin C and lysine, now available as Medi-C Plus in Health Food Stores, can reverse atherosclerosis. It's a revolutionary discovery that deserves the Nobel Prize. But it's a national tragedy that this research is collecting dust and is being ignored by the medical establishment, particularly cardiologists who should be aware of it. ☒



**Dr. W. Gifford-Jones** is a graduate of the University of Toronto and The Harvard Medical School. During his medical training, he has been

a family doctor, hotel doctor and ship's surgeon. He is a Fellow of The Royal College of Surgeons and author of seven books. For comments, email Dr. Gifford-Jones at [info@docgiff.com](mailto:info@docgiff.com) or [www.docgiff.com](http://www.docgiff.com)



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<b>12:00-1:30 pm</b>	<b>Nutrition Through the Lifespan:</b> Vitality at Any Age: the Secrets to Lasting Sexual Health With Dr. Rigobert Kefferputz, BSc., ND
<b>2:00-3:30 pm</b>	<b>Professional Practice:</b> Career and Opportunities while Living your Purpose as a Holistic Nutritionist With Chloe Elgar, BA, CNP



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# GMO BITES



## GMOs and glyphosate

Why the “Non-GMO” label doesn’t go far enough

by Jeremy Caradonna and Thierry Vrain

The total sale of products with “Non-GMO” labelling is now in the billions and the growth of this market is certainly to be applauded. However, the Non-GMO label inadvertently shields health-conscious consumers from one of the scarier realities of the modern food system – that glyphosate, which is the main ingredient in the herbicide Roundup, is also being applied to non-genetically modified crops.

The world now has 500 million acres of GMO crops: mainly soy and corn in North and South America; cotton in the US, China and India; and canola, sugar beet and alfalfa in the US and Canada. These crops are genetically modified to withstand the application of glyphosate, in the form of Roundup – hence the label “Roundup Ready” crops. Glyphosate is a synthetic amino acid, a glycine analogue that kills all plants except for the crop engineered with a bacterial gene that provides resistance to the herbicide.

Numerous scientific studies since 2009 have shown that glyphosate inactivates detoxification enzymes, disrupts the endocrine system, damages the microbiome and immune system and is carcinogenic. Now, the symptoms of chronic diseases that have become epidemic in the last 20 years can be explained by its mis-incorporation as a synthetic amino acid in all our proteins.

This explains why glyphosate accumulates in all human organs, including breast milk. The public suspects much of this, which is why foods labelled “Organic” – free of both GMOs and glyphosate – and “Non-GMO” continue to grow in market share.

The symptoms of chronic diseases that have become epidemic in the last 20 years can be explained by its [glyphosate’s] mis-incorporation as a synthetic amino acid in all our proteins. This explains why glyphosate accumulates in all human organs, including breast milk.

It is also on the basis of these studies that the World Health Organization and the State of California recently listed glyphosate as a “carcinogen,” and many European countries *continued p.27...*

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Mac McLaughlin

ZODIAC

# StarWise

October 2016

Everyone's holding his or her collective breath as we approach the fateful November US election date. November 8 tells the tale. I've gone on about Trump's chart – especially in the April 2016 issue – but it might be worthwhile to put the charts of Clinton and Trump under the cosmic microscope once again. When I look at their birth horoscopes, it makes my head spin and my heart pound, nearly audibly. It's been in the news that Hillary Clinton may be ill, and her stars are strongly indicating she may very well be suffering from some type of severe illness. On top of that, her husband – and former US president – Bill Clinton is also on shaky ground, health-wise. Hillary has the power to win the election, but she may not be able to perform her duties, and the stress could be over the top for the Clinton family.

Donald Trump's chart is equally strong and very dynamic and he also has the power to pull off a win, but the stars are indicating a most dangerous time in his life. It's one of the strange things about astrology. Trump comes into a double Jupiter cycle just days after the election that promises great abundance, fame, wealth and power. At the same time, other planetary influences indicate the probability of a great fall in his status and wealth. On top of that, other indicators are showing the high probability of some type of accident or incident that could bring injuries or death to him before the fall of 2017. Go figure.

Both of the top contenders for the throne of the most powerful position on the planet are on shaky and very dangerous ground. What could this mean? To me, it means both have the power to win, but neither one may be able to see it through to the end of their term. Either of their vice presidents may be the one that ends up carrying through until the 2020 elections. I hope that what is written above doesn't come to pass, and whomever is elected is able to carry on and do their best with the best of health, peace and safety. The remedy is to counterbalance this energy with more love and more caring for one another. Give, give and give some more, and by the by, we will get it worked out with love. According to the true mystics, we have a time coming up when the planet will be run by the wise ones who are spiritually enlightened, with wisdom and love in their hearts.

**Mac McLaughlin** has been a practising, professional astrologer for more than four decades. His popular **Straight Stars** column ran in Vancouver's largest weekly newspaper for 11 years. Email [mac@macsstars.com](mailto:mac@macsstars.com) or call 604-731-1109.



**ARIES** Mar 21 - Apr 19  
Anything weighing on your mind these days? If so, throw it to your drummer. Your drummer is the sum total of all that you are; in other words, your spirit. The answers to your problems will come flying back your way within a few days of the full Moon on October 15.



**TAURUS** Apr 20 - May 21  
Taurus never makes changes easily or readily, and if change comes, it is often experienced as somewhat of a tectonic shift. No sense waiting around for that type of energy to manifest. Be the master of your own destiny by moving forward now and making the changes that will bring peace and happiness your way.



**GEMINI** May 22 - Jun 20  
It's one of those unique differences in personality types, in which Taurus doesn't make changes easily or readily while Gemini looks forward with anticipation to anything new and exciting. You must put this natural gift to good use now and be very pro-active about getting it together body, mind and soul-wise.



**CANCER** Jun 21 - Jul 22  
Things could get a bit hairy around the full Moon on October 15. There might be power plays and other types of manoeuvres going on that need your attention and intuition. Kindness, caring and patience get you through while anger and aggression could easily backfire. Relationships of all sorts get tested throughout the month.



**LEO** Jul 23 - Aug 22  
You can ease on though the October time or you can use the energy on board to tackle any sort of persistent problems or concerns, especially regarding your overall health. If your health is fine, you can focus the energy towards organizing the different areas of your life that have needed your attention for some time.



**VIRGO** Aug 23 - Sep 22  
It may be hard to keep your focus and attention on all of the different projects and objectives you have going. You may sense you have lost your way. Time and pressure are the two components you are up against. Doing one thing at a time, and taking your time, is best.



**LIBRA** Sep 23 - Oct 22  
Reach for the stars and make a wish. Better still, just make it happen. Dynamic changes are taking place in your life, and out of the 12 signs, you have the best opportunities to be successful in all that you do. The full Moon on October 15 will bring more than a few surprises your way.



**SCORPIO** Oct 23 - Nov 21  
It's time for some behind-the-scenes work. Topics such as health, be it physical or spiritual, need your attention now. It's also time to serve and help other souls that may be in need of nurturing and care. It's time to resurrect your spirit and energy once again. A time of healing takes place.



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22 - Dec 21  
Saturn continues to carve out his wisdom into your soul. Sagittarius is generally a joyful type and not too much can really get them down. A time has now arrived in which you have to get serious about what works and what doesn't work. Seemingly onerous, once done, you can put the past behind you.



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22 - Jan 19  
Mars and Pluto meet up in your sign mid-month, bringing on all kinds of power plays and other displays of possible outright ruthlessness and some danger. Keep in mind an honest man fears no enemies. The best bet is to avoid dangerous people and places. Moreover, stay clean and let your works be seen.



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20 - Feb 19  
The time has come to do some exploring. You can climb the highest mountain and dive to the depths of the sea, but, in reality, the best search and discovery are within your psyche. Philosophy and spirituality, along with all forms of academia, will be of interest now. The world is your oyster these days.



**PISCES** Feb 20 - Mar 20  
Pisces is the most gifted and naturally talented sign of the zodiac. Art, music, medicine and theatre are natural vehicles for your expression. What you need to know is that you are flowering and opening as never before. Keep your vessel clean and pure and stay receptive to the higher vibrations being offered these days.

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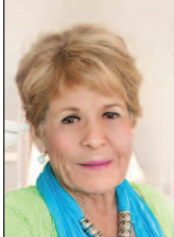
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# When pain is invisible

I have worked with many clients who suffer from chronic physical pain, as well as those who have post traumatic stress. For these people, physical or emotional pain can be constant, and from the outside they may look perfectly normal.

A person wearing a cast or recovering from surgery is treated with compassion and patience. Their pain is obvious. Those with invisible pain often do not get the same compassion. Those who have not suffered from invisible pain cannot know what that is like.

People with chronic physical pain have often exhausted all medical and alternative options. There seems to be no cure and all they have is medication, which often does not reduce the pain very much. They can become depressed because the pain prevents them from living their lives as they used to. Activities and social engagements they once enjoyed are difficult, if not impossible. Their world becomes smaller.

**Often, a person is unaware they have been affected by trauma or struggle to understand why they are the way they are.**

The salt in the wound comes when family and friends do not believe the pain is that bad or that the individual has done everything possible to help him or herself. Worse still is when others suspect they are faking it.


People with PTSD have similar experiences. The trauma has taken away their 'old self' and life can be a constant battle to control the symptoms. Depression, anxiety, fear, guilt and a sense that they are stigmatized are common. We think of PTSD in terms of military personnel or first responders, however, those with abusive childhoods can also have PTSD. It can manifest as challenges in relationships, low self-esteem, lack of trust, fear of abandonment and defensiveness.

Often, a person is unaware they have been affected by trauma or they struggle to understand why they are the way they are. PTSD is complicated and requires an individualized approach that deals not just with the traumatic event, but also with the whole person: body, mind and soul.

There is usually a one-size-fits-all approach to the treatment of PTSD, but the wrong approach can worsen the condition. The individual needs a compassionate approach that helps them understand how the trauma affected them and why they are triggered. They need to be empowered to gain control over their mind and physiology. They need help to find new meaning in their experiences and their lives.

PTSD is very hard for others around the person to understand. They are often told, "Just get over it" or "It's time to move on." No one wants this more than the person suffering, but it is not that simple.

People with PTSD are often accused of dwelling on the past and even of faking it to get disability payments. People with PTSD think and function differently, and an astute therapist could easily spot someone who was pretending.

If you know someone with invisible pain, realize you may never fully understand it, but you can still demonstrate compassion and patience. Sometimes a hug says it all. If the person is a partner, it can be a challenge because often they do not even want to talk about it, and behaviour can be unpredictable. Know there will be bad days and better days. If you are blessed by having no pain, try to avoid conflict, give love and reassurance and do things to take care of yourself. 

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and psychotherapist in private practice. For articles and information about her books, "Deep Powerful Change" hypnosis CDs and "Creating Effective Relationships" series, visit [www.gwen.ca](http://www.gwen.ca) and also Like Gwen on Facebook.

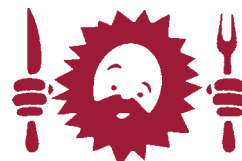


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# Keep the Peace and feed us all



Will BC create  
a Peace Valley  
breadbasket or a  
Site C basket case?

by Bruce Mason

## Inevitable dam fallout

### Site C will:

- Damage the Peace Athabasca Delta in Wood Buffalo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest such fresh water body on the planet.
- Devastate the traditional territories of the Treaty 8 First Nations and 11,000 years of sacred history, culture and rights, as well future livelihood.
- Decimate moose, fish, bear and other wildlife, contaminated with toxic methyl mercury from decaying trees and other vegetation. It will also release toxic methane into the atmosphere.
- Cut a key wildlife migration corridor and severely impact wetlands, migratory birds, and more.
- Suppress development of climate-friendly power sources, such as solar, wind, tidal and geothermal energy, dishonouring Canada's climate agreements, goals and promises.
- Bankrupt BC Hydro and bloat energy bills for generations. And smart meters have made it possible to cut off power to tens of thousands more non-paying customers with the click of a button – more than six times the previous rate - while mining companies defer 75 percent of their hydro bills for up to two years.

Caroline Beam and her children Xavier, Lucas and Tristan at their home on the banks of the river, with the Gates pictured in the background. The Beam children have grown up with the river as their backyard. From the upcoming book, *The Peace in Peril*, by Christopher Pollon. Photo by Ben Nelms.

**L**et's focus for a moment on some fundamental issues for Common Ground readers – nutrition and food security, safety, sustainability and sovereignty – as they relate to the most costly (\$9 billion and rising), unnecessary mega-project in BC history.

As you read this, scorched-earth infrastructure for a massive, otherworldly wall of compacted earth is being constructed to crush and greedily swallow up nature in the northeastern Peace Valley. Towering 60 meters high, and more than a kilometre wide, the Site C dam will cause an apocalyptic, man-made, 93-square-kilometre flood, engulfing enough precious topsoil to grow the nutritional requirements for at least one million people.

That's healthy food for more than 20 per-

cent of the province's population from fertile alluvial soil, in a unique micro-climate with long summer daylight; it is the only large tract of land that remains for future horticultural expansion. The estimate is based on BC Hydro's own figures from back in the '80s when an independent review nixed a third Peace dam as a bad idea – not in the public interest. The power grab briefly reared its head again in the '90s. Now, here we are: Site C Whack-A-Mole, 2016.

Wendy Holm, the award-winning former president of the BC Institute of Agrologists ([www.bcia.com](http://www.bcia.com)), explains, "Healthy food for a million people is a very conservative estimate. This farmland is much closer than California, or Mexico. It will be needed in the future. We could have co-ops of young people growing organic fruits and vegetables in a heartbeat."



Surely that's music to many under-employed ears and minds in BC's unaffordable Lower Mainland, where – like everywhere else – farmers markets, farm-gate sales (\$2.8 billion in 2012) and allotments are booming, in stark contrast to busting fossil fuels and resource extraction.

A recent Real Estate Foundation/Vancouver Foundation opinion poll revealed that 92 percent of respondents say it's very important that BC produce enough food to be independent of imports. Even as our Christy contemplates the largest withdrawal from the agricultural land reserve in provincial history, a decision that will remove forever

Holm – in her 2014 submission to the Site C Review panel – concluded, “There are many sources of energy. Only fruits and vegetables are fruits and vegetables. Leaving food prices to global forces invites food poverty and all of its attendant economic and social costs. The natural capital held in the alluvial soils and Class 1 climate of the Peace River Valley is trans-generational and not for us to withdraw.”

from our Commons, tens of thousands of acres of fertile Class 1 and 2 farmland and CO2-guzzling forest.

“This land is our green grocer. This land is our Plan B for the province in terms of nutrition and health,” Holm states. “To cover these soils with water for a dam is criminal on a public policy level.”

A truthful accounting of lost farmland includes not just those immediately flooded by the reservoir, but also lands

that erode and are destabilized and collapse, and those paved to re-route existing highways, etc. In fact, as little as one-fifth of land, soon to be under 50 metres of water, is capable of producing enough fruits and vegetables to feed one million people. A potential bonanza, far beyond Clark and Trudeau's tunnel vision.

BC is food-deficient in fresh vegetables and fruit; we currently supply only 43 percent of our market. A 2014 Vancity report, “Wake up Call: California Drought & BC's Food Security,” outlines the urgent need for self-reliance to secure future access to healthy food. In 2010, 67 percent of BC's vegetable imports came from the US, over half of which were from California, which, as we all know, has been experiencing “extreme” and “exceptional” ongoing drought conditions.

BC's vegetable crop production fell 20.4 percent between 1991 and 2011, with significant decreases in several staple crops. Strawberry production in the province, for example, has fallen 60 percent. And, as we continue to import 95 percent of all broccoli and 74 percent of all lettuce, the report predicts prices of \$7 per crown and \$3.50 per head, respectively.

Those kinds of prices are already the norm in northern regions, areas in close proximity to the Peace. Yet pesticide and GE-free greens, asparagus, and more – now trucked at least 2,000 kilometres – could flow from half that distance to any table in the province.

In “health crazy” BC, at least among the relatively well heeled, we have the highest child poverty rate in the nation and we are the only province without an anti-poverty plan. And too many British Columbians exist below recommended nutritional guidelines, which is especially harmful and costly to childhood development.

The Peace option is no pipe dream, unlike fracked natural gas fantasies. Last September, when the nation was caught in federal election throes, Common Ground published an excerpt from Jeff Rubin's *The Carbon Bubble: What Happens to Us When It Bursts*. The former chief economist at CIBC World Markets spelled out how Canadian governments squander economic opportunity by emphasizing resource extraction. He predicted that water-rich Canada would become the breadbasket to the world because climate change was resulting in longer growing seasons north of the 49th. That fact is not lost on Asian “investors” purchasing huge tracts of Canadian farmland, as our trade missions flog agricultural product to foreign markets, mainly China.

Holm, in her 2014 submission to the Site C Review panel, concluded, “There are many sources of energy. Only fruits and vegetables are fruits and vegetables. Leaving food prices to global forces invites food poverty and all of its attendant economic and social costs. The natural capital held in the alluvial soils and Class 1 climate of the Peace River Valley is trans-generational and not for us to withdraw.”

Food for thought and discussion and another arrow in the quiver for the looming, epic, international battle for common sense and sanity at Site C. ■

**Bruce Mason** is a Vancouver and Gabriola Island-based banjo player, gardener, writer and author of *Our Clinic*.

## BC Hydro's boasts about Site C dam

In Christy Clark's plan to “push Site C beyond the point of no return,” BC Hydro boasted of “significant progress” in the first year, despite myriad unresolved court challenges and the serious concerns of the likes of Amnesty International, UNESCO, hundreds of scientists, First Nations, BC's Government Employees Union and other groups. Below, we quote BC Hydro's Chris O'Riley, Deputy CEO, Capital Infrastructure Project Delivery. (From BC Hydro's Site C construction update, August 10, 2016.)

- “Financial commitments now totalled more than \$4 billion, including the worker accommodation lodge (\$470 million), main civil works (\$1.75 billion) and turbines and generators (\$470 million).
- 2.5 million cubic metres of material had been excavated by mid-summer – enough to fill about 1,000 Olympic-size swimming pools.
- 900 hectares of land had been cleared – roughly the size of 850 baseball fields.
- 1,200 rooms had been built at the worker accommodation facility – 75 percent of the total number of rooms required (and apparently affordable).
- Over 65,000 cubic metres of timber had been delivered to local mills in Fort St. John for processing.
- A 329-metre temporary construction bridge had been built across the Peace River.
- ...Working hard to build relationships with First Nations – based on ‘mutual respect, trust and opportunities to benefit’ – included approximately \$130 million in procurement. Aboriginal businesses had been involved in clearing, site preparation, roads and bridges, safety and security, substation work, environmental monitoring and the operation of a health clinic for project workers.” [Editor's note: Ironically, all this seeming goodwill is in stark contrast to the situation at the end of September when Peter Lantin, president of the Haida Nation, asked Christy Clark to stay away from the Royals' visit to Haida Gwaii. The community is opposed to the controversial Pacific NorthWest LNG project that received approval from the federal government.]

## Town Hall Meeting

OCTOBER 26

### Premier Clark's \$9 billion heist

A Town Hall meeting for Site C dam. Hosted by Wilderness Committee and Council of Canadians. 7-9PM, Roundhouse Community Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver. Everyone welcome. With Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), Emma Gilchrist (DeSmog Canada) & Ben Parfitt Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA). Visit [www.wildernesscommittee.org](http://www.wildernesscommittee.org), 604-683-8220 or [www.canadians.org](http://www.canadians.org), 604-688-8846.



# The Power of one – We all have it

by Alexandra Morton

**T**hey have said “No” for almost 30 years to the salmon farms using their territories. But somehow, Canada, BC and the Norwegian/Japanese salmon farmers decided to ignore them. So today, one third of the BC salmon farming industry has made themselves at home in Musgamagw Dzawada’enuxw territory.

This industry is disrupting the web of life throughout this coast, entrapping wild fish, disrupting migration patterns that fed hundreds of species and smothering the seafloor, altering the chemical composition of the water with industrial feedlot effluent, releasing billions of lice, viruses and bacteria daily. The Musgamagw Dzawada’enuxw, a people with a 13,000-year relationship with this place, view this as yet another form of genocide.

**Alexandra’s blog post August 27, 2016  
Gotcha!**

I have now been on the RV *Martin Sheen* for 39 days. We have looked closely at salmon farms from Vancouver to Port Hardy. I brought the boat to the Musgamagw Dzawada’enuxw, in Kingcome Inlet, as they have fought this industry for nearly 30 years. They have said “No” from the beginning and yet 1/3 of the BC salmon farming industry is using their territory to grow Atlantic salmon.

The Kingcome herring have collapsed despite 30 years of protection from fishing, and the wild salmon are a fraction of what they used to be. This is highly predictable; this is what happens *everywhere* there are salmon farms placed among wild salmon and sea trout. This is why I cannot understand how the Government of Canada could possibly have given the industry long-term licences on Canada Day, July 1, 2016.

The Minister of Fisheries, Dominic LeBlanc, was given the mandate to use ‘science’ to protect Canada’s infinitely valuable wild fisheries and yet he went ahead and gave Mitsubishi and the Norwegians,

long-term access to pollute the rich waters of BC with sea lice and viruses. These are problems that the industry has not solved anywhere in the world. How can Canada do this? What hold does this industry have on them?

The Musgamagw Dzawada’enuxw have boarded three salmon farms in their territory in the last two

**How can the government of Canada state that respecting First Nations is their sacred obligation and give foreign salmon farming companies permission to pollute the territory of nations who have said “NO?”**

weeks [written on August 27]. Each time more people joined, and most recently many chiefs from several sister nations – Namgis, Mamalilikulla and Danaxdaxw – joined them.

On August 23, they boarded the Marine Harvest

Midsummer farm in their territory and I was asked to examine the farm salmon so I lowered a Go Pro camera into the pens on a pole. (See the video at [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) by searching for Hard Evidence Twyla Roscovitch.)

Industry and DFO have tried to tell us that farm salmon don’t eat wild fish. Well, that is simply not true! Gotcha red-handed! \*As DFO is boarding fishing boats – 17 officers with guns on a single boat – there is no response to wild fish entrapped in a Norwegian salmon farm, with farm salmon feeding on them.

We need to make sure government knows that they have made a huge mistake. How can the government of Canada state that respecting First Nations is their sacred obligation and give foreign salmon farming companies permission to pollute the territory of nations who have said “No?”

My deepest thanks to the Sea Shepherd captain and crew, for this voyage into the dark side of salmon farming. [K](#)

\*See <http://www.thenorthernview.com/news/389620871.html>  
Source: <http://blog.alexandramorton.ca>



The nations of the Dzawada’enuxw have been uniting and travelling down the coast of Vancouver Island locking arms with other nations in their quest to remove salmon farms from their traditional waters, sometimes called the Broughton Archipelago.



# More at VIFF mesmerizing and unconventional

by Robert Alstead

**K**oneline: *Our Land Beautiful*, by local filmmaker Nettie Wild, takes a fresh, even-handed approach to a heated subject: resource development in BC's Northwest wilderness. The hereditary land of the Tahltan First Nation has been dubbed the "Serengeti of the North." Now, the land is being opened up to mining companies for its rich gold and copper resources. Wild's approach allows many individuals to share their different knowledge and experience of the area – whether it be the geologist's expertise on rock formations or the aboriginal student sharing his disappearing dialect – and builds a mosaic of impressions.

Mesmerizing slo-mo shots of huge electricity towers being planted by helicopter, for the 344-kilometre Northwest Transmission Line, sets an ambivalent tone early on that pervades the film: the newly erected towers lined into the distance stand as both a testament to human endeavour and as a scar on the vast, natural landscape. A richly textured sound design helps evoke an other-worldly, almost dreamscape atmosphere throughout the film. Later, we see live salmon dangling in a large steel capsule at the end of the chopper's line as they are transported upriver beyond an impassable rock slide. In years past, the fish would be moved by human chain. The times are a changin' – aboriginal hunters shoot moose by truck,



From Yann Arthus-Bertrand's documentary *Human*. Photo courtesy of viff.org Showing October 10 (VIFF at the Centre) and October 12 (Vancouver Playhouse).

while white hunters carry bows and arrows, and both are seeing much less game. See *Koneline* at VIFF (October 3 & 9) and at Vancity Theatre (October 28-November 10).

George Gittoes' documentary *Snow Monkey*, about a group of street children in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, is unconventional to say the least. The avuncular, pony-tailed Aussie taught a whole posse of street kids to make action flicks about their lives on the street. This is the film about them making their films. Gittoes himself is at the heart, both as teacher and father figure to the youngsters, documenting their stories, supporting them, buying them ice cream. The kids are amazing, truly resilient in the face of Dickensian conditions and endless violence, often inflicted upon each other. At a meandering 148 minutes, it is an unusual concoction of reportage, first-hand stories and B-movie style film clips, but the overall impression is raw and real.

*Fire at Sea (Fuocoammare)* employs a very different observational and still documentary style. The camera is a cool eye on two very different worlds on Lampedusa, a small, border island near Sicily, switching between scenes of the quiet life of the locals and the desperate plight of migrants trying to reach Europe by sea from Africa. There's no voice-over and the soundtrack is

largely limited to what is shot: the slap and crash of the changeable sea, a migrant rap or the traditional playlist of the local radio station. The director's rigorous, stylistic purity allows the long shots to quietly speak volumes. A young local boy's war play takes on a new significance when juxtaposed with footage of traumatized migrants, huddled in the hundreds on coffin boats. In one haunting scene, the coast guard in hazmat suits and facemasks pile twitching, diesel-drenched bodies onto rescue boats. "It's the duty of every human being to help these people," says the local physician as he shares some of the horrors he has encountered. Yet it seems indifference reigns. (October 5, 12 & 14.)

*Portrait of a Garden (Portret van een tuin)* is either going to be your idea of fascinating or like watching paint dry. It follows two amiable male gardeners, of advanced years, as they work through a calendar year in a Dutch estate garden. As they prune away, they share tips for increasing crop yields and size of the fruit or bemoan the lack of variety in agriculture and suchlike. The format can be a little plodding, but it is easy-going and enjoyable to see the turning of the seasons. If you want to know why basket willows are better than plastic ties for your vines, this is the film for you. (Oct 2 & 12.)

A few more VIFF films on my to-see list: *Human*, the latest from *Home* director Yann Arthus-Bertrand (October 10 & 12), sponsored by *Common Ground*; *Seasons (Les Saisons)*, by the people who made *Winged Migration* (October 2, 7 & 12); and the Aussie aboriginal crime thriller *Goldstone*. (October 7 & 10.)

Robert Alstead made the climate justice documentary *Running On Climate*, [runningonclimate.com](http://runningonclimate.com)



*Koneline: Our Land Beautiful* director Nettie Wild. Image courtesy of Canada Wild Productions ([www.canadawildproductions.com](http://www.canadawildproductions.com))





# The predator we need to control is us!

**H**umans are the world's top predator. The way we fulfil this role is often mired in controversy, from factory farming to trophy hunting to predator control. The latter is the process governments use to kill carnivores like wolves, coyotes and cougars to stop them from hunting threatened species like caribou – even though human activity is the root cause of caribou's decline.

Predation is an important natural function. But as the human population has grown, we've taken over management of ecosystems once based on mutually beneficial relationships that maintained natural balances. How are we – a “super predator” as the Rain-coast Conservation Foundation dubs us – aligning with or verging from natural predation processes that shaped the world?

One way to tell is to examine the extent to which we emulate natural processes. This principle is applied in biomimicry where humans base inventions on natural forms and functions. (Think Velcro, patented in 1955 after George de Mestral studied the burrs on his dog's back.) Some resource-management disciplines employ biomimicry. For example, forestry management is often based on trying to imitate disturbances caused by natural events such as fires.

If we are to emulate natural predators, we must look at the types of prey killed. Non-human predators usually take down the injured, old or young. This leaves the strongest genetic material to be passed on. Human predators often target the largest males (trophy hunting) or entire packs (predator control).

In the wild, non-human predators rarely kill top predators. A *Science* report concluded humans kill large predators at nine times the rate at which carnivores typically kill each other.

There are also differences in how prey are killed. Natural predation is violent. But human predation

often goes to another level. In addition to using aerial shooting and poison baits, reports indicate BC employed “Judas wolves,” radio-collared wolves used to track down packs so they can be killed. The Judas wolves are left alive so that if they join a new pack, those wolves can be killed, too. It's hard to see how this fits within the boundaries of natural predation. (The BC government denies using Judas wolves.)

**Non-human predators usually take down the injured, old or young. This leaves the strongest genetic material to be passed on. Human predators often target the largest males (trophy hunting) or entire packs (predator control).**

Human management regimes, such as predator control and trophy hunting, disrupt healthy predator-prey dynamics and damage ecosystems. Sadly, this is often a moot point: Alberta and BC use predator control because the landscape has been so pummelled by industrial activity that the large, intact forests caribou need to survive and avoid predation no longer exist. Predators are targeted as scapegoats for human activities.

Predators usually kill for sustenance. For millennia, Indigenous peoples have also relied on hunting to maintain traditional ways of life. But with trophy hunting, the government's impetus is to make money. Governments that allow continued resource extraction in imperilled caribou habitat are using predator control as a stopgap measure to keep caribou alive.

In ecosystems managed by natural processes, and not for resource extraction, predators play a key role in maintaining the environment's health. In *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, Enric Sala notes that predators “can regulate the structure of entire communities.”

Ultimately, natural predator-prey relationships are symbiotic. Predators not only keep prey populations in check and maintain natural cycles, they can even heal degraded ecosystems. Wolves reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park in 1995 restored the natural biodiversity that had diminished in their absence. To avoid predation, elk spent less time in valley bottoms, which allowed plants and trees to regenerate, in turn attracting birds, bears and beavers. Vegetation stabilized riverbanks, beavers altered waterways, and soon, turtles, amphibians and river otters returned.

When judged by this dynamic of upholding natural balances, humans are failing terribly as predators. It's hubris to think we can manage complex ecosystem dynamics using simple-minded band-aid approaches.

What can we do to become better? We can stop looking for scapegoats and look in the mirror at the primary cause of species' decline across Canada. We can end trophy hunting. We can end predator control by maintaining and restoring the habitat that caribou need to survive and recover. We can plan to operate within natural limits.

It's shocking that Western society villainizes predators like wolves, even though they're highly intelligent, social creatures that play a critical role in regulating nature. The predator we need to control is us! **◀**

Excerpted from the original article, **The simple-minded nature of human super predators**. David Suzuki is a scientist, broadcaster, author and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. Written with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation Science Projects Manager Rachel Plotkin. Learn more at [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org)

...*Industry* from pg. 6

Health Canada is proposing that, going forward, supplements will not be allowed to make health claims unless they undergo pharmaceutical style double-blind placebo clinical trials. Since such trials typically cost \$20 million each, Health Canada knows this is impossible. They also know this directly contravenes the will of Parliament.

Reading through the text of the Health Canada proposal, they keep referring to themselves as an “evidence based institution,” yet they provide no evidence there is anything wrong with the current NHP regulatory model. When it comes to scientific studies of NHPs, the medical literature is immense; there

are tens of thousands of studies from major research institutions supporting the safety and efficacy of vitamins and herbs.

It is truly disturbing that after 12 years of developing these regulations based on the Committee's recommendations, Health Canada has come out with this proposal to blow up the regulations and take us back 20 years to a pharma paradigm, which does not allow for traditional Chinese medicine, Ayurveda and traditional herbalism – not to mention vitamins and minerals – to make health claims. It's crazy. They did not consult the CHFA at all and they gave only a 45-day notice period for consultation!

To be honest, I don't think this was part of the

plan of the new government. I think Health Canada is pulling a fast one on a new government that is not educated on this issue. But the new government, so far, is allowing this to happen.

Our industry wants and welcomes regulatory oversight. We want Health Canada to review products before they come to market to ensure Canadians are buying safe effective NHPs. What we can't support is a pharmaceutical review process for products that are not pharmaceuticals. Again, please write to your MP and tell them you don't want Health Canada to stop regulation of the industry. **◀**

– Matthew Breech



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*We are social creatures to the inmost centre of our being.  
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free from the past, or unindebted to others, could not  
conceivably be more wrong.*  
– Karl Popper



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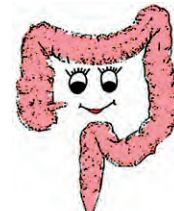
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*To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you  
something else is the greatest accomplishment.*

- **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

...*Drug Bust* from pg. 8

The study divided the men into three groups of roughly equal size: the first group were given chemotherapy, the second had surgery and the third were given 'active monitoring,' which is to say the last group essentially had no treatment whatsoever.

What the ProtecT trial – stands for Prostate Testing for Cancer and Treatment – found after following these three groups of men for 10 years was that 99% of them were still alive, regardless of which path they were on. Most surprising? The men who were treated – with surgery and chemotherapy – didn't live any longer than those who weren't. And they didn't live any healthier either, as some of those treated faced the adverse effects of the treatment.

For several decades, PSA testing has been aggressively recommended for middle-aged men. It was often ordered by doctors by a mere check mark on a lab requisition, and some men didn't even know their blood was being tested for prostate cancer. If that doesn't correspond to Sackett's "aggressively assertive" description of preventive medicine, I don't know what does. And people like me, who questioned the advice that healthy, symptom-free men should be given a PSA test, continued to be attacked, often in an overbearing manner, told we were hurting men by making men hesitate to get the test.

Thankfully, due to this research, physicians are more likely to leave our prostates alone and stop poking and prodding men who have no symptoms. Which reminds me, everyone knows that urology is a great source of medical humour. For example:

Q: Why did the physician use two fingers to do a digital rectal exam?

A: He wanted to get a second opinion.

Ba dump, bump.

Men around the world are now rejoicing because of other prostate-related news that came out this summer. Like the PSA test, the research results of a large study of the dreaded DRE (Digital Rectal Exam), promoted as another way to hunt for early signs of prostate cancer, found it was probably useless and should be abandoned. Obviously, for men at greater risk – those with a close family history of prostate cancer, or who have prostate symptoms –it might make sense for the DRE or the PSA, as they might have a higher chance of benefit. But for otherwise healthy men? It's time to show some humility.

While this new research on screening for prostate cancer adds to our collective thinking of the problems of over-diagnosis, it also demands us to engage in a wider discussion about preventative healthcare and how much energy we, as a society, keep expending trying to cheat death.

The danger of preventative medicine is not just the willy-nilly nature of how it is used, frequently in the absence of evidence, it's the way it's used as a justification for all kinds of poking and prodding of perfectly healthy people. It's not like all this vigilance about disease makes us feel any healthier. As Dr. Iona Heath once wrote in the *British Medical Journal*: "It seems that the more people are exposed to doctors and contemporary health care, including the rhetoric of preventive care, the sicker they feel."

Several years ago, I had the chance to spend a day interviewing the late Dr. David Sackett, who was deeply involved in the early creation of the Cochrane Collaboration and a strong early proponent of proper use of randomized trials to decide important questions in healthcare. (Note to file: the ProtecT trial and the Women's Health Initiative were both randomized trials.) I travelled to his home at Irish Lake, a few hours north of Toronto and found a big barrel-chested tower of a man. Nearing 80, and still full of verve, the man considered the father of evidence-based medicine displayed none of the arrogance that he railed against in his attack on the arrogance of preventive healthcare.

Now that it seems pretty clear men won't live any longer with a PSA test, and that *continued next page...*





# Undoing Bill C-51

Public consultation – while flawed – a real chance to repeal unpopular Conservative legislation

It's here. Almost a year into their mandate, the Liberal government has finally launched its long awaited public consultation on Bill C-51, and a broad range of privacy and national security issues.

Speaking at the launch, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale and Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould said they had already identified a limited number of areas of Bill C-51 they wanted changed and that they wanted to get Canadians' views on how to deal with the rest of the unpopular legislation.

Bill C-51, readers may recall, is the highly controversial spying bill forced through Parliament by the previous Conservative federal government. Notably, the legislation turns the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS) into what the *Globe and Mail* has called a "secret police force," with little independent oversight or accountability.

Bill C-51 also opens the door for violations of our Charter rights, including censorship of free expression online, a point made by Margaret Atwood and hundreds of other Canadian writers, artists and creators in an open letter – <https://killc51.ca/artists-letter> – last year. The bill also empowers government agencies to engage in the kind of dragnet mass surveillance – and information sharing – of innocent Canadians that many top security experts warn is

counterproductive.

Of course, Canadians didn't take this lying down. Over 300,000 people signed a petition calling for the complete repeal of Bill C-51, and street protests took place across the country. It's clear that citizens' appetite for change extends far beyond the limited number of areas identified by Ministers Goodale and Wilson-Raybould; Canadians want the

**Canadians want the legislation completely overturned and won't be satisfied with mere tinkering around the edges.**

legislation completely overturned and won't be satisfied with mere tinkering around the edges.

That's what makes it all the more concerning to see the government release a Green Paper for the consultation that focuses entirely on the concerns of police, rather than on the needs of Canadians. Although this Green Paper purports to explain the key issues, it's so one-sided that Micheal Vonn, policy director at the BC Civil Liberties Association, writes that "in the main, it reads like it was drafted by a public relations firm tasked with selling the current state of extraor-

dinary, unaccountable powers and if anything, laying the groundwork for extending those even further."

There are multiple examples of this bias, on issues ranging from encryption, to data retention, and expansion of CSIS powers. Civil society groups are going to need to work hard to set the record straight and ensure Canadians have the facts needed to make an informed contribution. These issues are far too important to allow them to be defined in a way that ignores the profound public concerns about the impact of Bill C-51 on the health of our democracy.

This consultation is our best chance to get Bill C-51 repealed and to ensure strong privacy rules to keep us safe. It's essential that as many Canadians as possible take part in order to secure the changes we need.

At OpenMedia, we're working on a consultation tool to facilitate participation from as many Canadians as possible and we're asking everyone to send the government a clear message to repeal Bill C-51 and restore our privacy safeguards. See <https://act.openmedia.org/security>

**David Christopher** is communications manager for OpenMedia, which works to keep the Internet open, affordable and surveillance-free.

...*Drug Bust* from pg. 24

their lives are unlikely to be healthier – due to the impotence and incontinence related to the surgery and chemotherapy – they may choose not to pay these costs.

In his book *Overdiagnosed*, Gilbert Welch called PSA screening the "Poster Child" for overdiagnosis, but I would push that paradigm a bit further. I'd say that PSA testing and early prostate cancer treatment could be called the "Poster Child" of arrogant, *preventative* medicine, demonstrating how deeply we are capable of misleading ourselves into thinking we're doing good, while doing harm.

With thousands of men in Canada, and over a million in the US, made incontinent or impotent because of PSA testing and treatment, it's time for a little bit of humility. And unless we reject the arrogance of preventive medicine, people will continue to be harmed by its overly assertive, presumptuous and overbearing manners.

**Alan Cassels** is a drug policy researcher in Victoria and the author of *Seeking Sickness* (about medical screening), which includes a chapter on PSA testing. He spent the day with David Sackett on Halloween in 2012.

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# Syria in crosshairs of corporate pipeline war

by Mike Whitney



**T**he conflict in Syria is not a war in the conventional sense of the word. It is a regime change operation, just like Libya and Iraq were regime change operations.

The main driver of the conflict is the country that's toppled more than 50 sovereign governments since the end of World War 2 [see williamblum.org]. We're talking about the United States, of course.

Washington is the hands-down regime change champion; no one else even comes close. That being the case, one might assume the American people would notice the pattern of intervention, see through the propaganda, and assign blame accordingly. But that never seems to happen and it probably won't happen here either. No matter how compelling the evidence may be, the brainwashed American people always believe their government is doing the right thing.

But the United States is not doing the right thing in Syria. Arming, training and funding Islamic extremists that have killed half a million people, displaced seven million more and turned the country into an uninhabitable wasteland is not the right thing. It is the wrong thing, the immoral thing. And the US is involved in this conflict for all the wrong reasons, the foremost of which is gas. The US wants to install a puppet regime in Damascus so it can secure pipeline corridors in the East, oversee the transport of vital energy reserves from Qatar to the EU, and make sure that those reserves continue to be denominated in US dollars that are recycled into US Treasuries and US financial assets. This is the basic recipe for maintaining US dominance in the Middle East and for extending America's imperial grip on global power into the future.

The war in Syria did not begin when the government

✍️

**We must recognize the Syrian conflict is a war over control of resources indistinguishable from the myriad clandestine and undeclared oil wars we have been fighting in the Mid-East for 65 years. And only when we see this conflict as a proxy war over a pipeline do events become comprehensible."**

**– Robert F. Kennedy Jr.,  
*Syria: Another Pipeline War***

of Bashar al-Assad cracked down on protestors in the spring of 2011. That version of events is obfuscating hogwash. The war began in 2009, when Assad rejected a Qatari plan to transport gas from Qatar to the EU via Syria. As Robert F. Kennedy Jr. explains in his excellent article, *Syria: Another Pipeline War*:

"The \$10 billion, 1,500km pipeline through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Turkey... would have linked

Qatar directly to European energy markets via distribution terminals in Turkey... The Qatar/Turkey pipeline would have given the Sunni Kingdoms of the Persian Gulf decisive domination of world natural gas markets and strengthen Qatar, America's closest ally in the Arab world...

In 2009, Assad announced that he would refuse to sign the agreement to allow the pipeline to run through Syria "to protect the interests of our Russian ally... Assad further enraged the Gulf's Sunni monarchs by endorsing a Russian approved "Islamic pipeline" running from Iran's side of the gas field through Syria and to the ports of Lebanon. The Islamic pipeline would make Shia Iran instead of Sunni Qatar, the principal supplier to the European energy market and dramatically increase Tehran's influence in the Mid-East and the world..."

Naturally, the Saudis, Qataris, Turks and Americans were furious at Assad, but what could they do? How could they prevent him from choosing his own business partners and using his own sovereign territory to transport gas to market?

What they could do is what any good Mafia Don would do: break a few legs and steal whatever he wanted. In this particular situation, Washington, and its scheming allies, decided to launch a clandestine proxy-war against Damascus, kill or depose Assad, and make damn sure the western oil giants nabbed the future pipeline contracts and controlled the flow of energy to Europe. That was the plan at least. Here's more from Kennedy:

"Secret cables and reports by the US, Saudi and Israeli intelligence agencies indicate that the moment Assad rejected the Qatari pipeline, military and intelligence planners quickly arrived at the consensus that fomenting



a Sunni uprising in Syria to overthrow the uncooperative Bashar Assad was a feasible path to achieving the shared objective of completing the Qatar/Turkey gas link. In 2009, according to WikiLeaks, soon after Bashar Assad rejected the Qatar pipeline, the CIA began funding opposition groups in Syria.” – Robert F. Kennedy Jr., *Why the Arabs don't want us in Syria (Politico)*.

Repeat – “The moment Assad rejected the Qatari pipeline,” he signed his own death warrant. That single act was the catalyst for the US aggression that transformed a bustling, five thousand-year old civilization into a desolate Fallujah-like moonscape, overflowing with homicidal fanatics that were recruited, groomed and deployed by the various allied intelligence agencies.

But what’s particularly interesting about this story is that the US attempted a nearly identical plan 60 years earlier during the Eisenhower administration. Here’s another clip from the Kennedy piece:

“During the 1950s, President Eisenhower and the Dulles brothers... mounted a clandestine war against Arab Nationalism, which CIA Director Allan Dulles equated with communism, particularly when Arab self-rule threatened oil concessions. They pumped secret American military aid to tyrants in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon favouring puppets with conservative Jihadist ideologies, which they regarded as a reliable antidote to Soviet Marxism...”

The CIA began its active meddling in Syria in 1949, barely a year after the agency’s creation... Syria’s democratically elected president, Shukri-al-Kuwaiti, hesitated to approve the Trans Arabian Pipeline, an American project intended to connect the oil fields of Saudi Arabia to the ports of Lebanon via Syria. (so)... the CIA engineered a coup, replacing al-Kuwaiti with the CIA’s handpicked dictator, a convicted swindler named Husni al-Za’im. Al-Za’im barely had time to dissolve parliament and approve the American pipe-

line before his countrymen deposed him, 14 weeks into his regime...

(CIA agent Rocky) Stone arrived in Damascus in April 1956 with \$3 million in Syrian pounds to arm and incite Islamic militants and to bribe Syrian military officers and politicians to overthrow al-Kuwaiti’s democratically elected secularist regime...

But all that CIA money failed to corrupt the Syrian



## The fact is there is no difference between Bush’s invasion of Iraq and Obama’s invasion of Syria. The moral, ethical and legal issues are the same.

military officers. The soldiers reported the CIA’s bribery attempts to the Ba’athist regime. In response, the Syrian army invaded the American Embassy taking Stone prisoner. Following harsh interrogation, Stone made a televised confession to his roles in the Iranian coup and the CIA’s aborted attempt to overthrow Syria’s legitimate government... (Then) Syria purged all politicians sympathetic to the US and executed them for treason.” (*Politico*)

See how history is repeating itself? It’s like the CIA was too lazy to even write a new script; they just dusted off the old one and hired new actors.

Fortunately, Assad, with the help of Iran, Hezbollah and the Russian Airforce, has fended off the effort to oust him and install a US-stooge. This should not be taken as a ringing endorsement of Assad as a leader, but of the prin-

cipal that global security depends on basic protections of national sovereignty, and that the cornerstone of international law has to be a rejection of unprovoked aggression whether the hostilities are executed by one’s own military or by armed proxies that are used to achieve the same strategic objectives while invoking plausible deniability. The fact is there is no difference between Bush’s invasion of Iraq and Obama’s invasion of Syria. The moral, ethical and legal issues are the same; the only difference is that Obama has been more successful in confusing the American people about what is really going on.

And what’s going on is regime change: “Assad must go.” That’s been the administration’s mantra from the get-go. Obama and Co. are trying to overthrow a democratically-elected secular regime that refuses to bow to Washington’s demands to provide access to pipeline corridors that will further strengthen US dominance in the region. That’s what’s really going on behind the ISIS distraction and the “Assad is a brutal dictator” distraction and the “war-weary civilians in Aleppo” distraction. Washington doesn’t care about any of those things. What Washington cares about is oil, power and money. How can anyone be confused about that by now? Kennedy summed it up like this:

“We must recognize the Syrian conflict is a war over control of resources indistinguishable from the myriad clandestine and undeclared oil wars we have been fighting in the Mid-East for 65 years. And only when we see this conflict as a proxy war over a pipeline do events become comprehensible.”

That says it all, don’t you think? 📌

Originally published at [www.counterpunch.org](http://www.counterpunch.org) (September 15, 2016). **Mike Whitney** lives in Washington State. He is a contributor to **Hopeless: Barack Obama and the Politics of Illusion** (AK Press). Hopeless is also available in a Kindle edition. He can be reached at [fergiwhitney@msn.com](mailto:fergiwhitney@msn.com)

...**GMO BITES** from pg. 13

that already tightly regulate glyphosate finally banned Roundup as an over-the-counter weed killer. On Vancouver Island, where we both reside, the municipalities of Victoria, Esquimalt, and Saanich have also banned the “general use” of Roundup.

What is less well known is that glyphosate is also being used as a “desiccant” on crops that are not genetically modified. At present, there are no GM cereal grains on the market, and thus crops such as wheat and barley cannot survive a dousing of glyphosate. But since 2000 or so, the USDA and Agriculture Canada have encouraged farmers to spray glyphosate onto grains and seed crops, in an effort to pre-emptively kill and dry out the crop prior to harvesting, to facilitate processing. This process is called chemical drying or desiccation. Glyphosate also kills the weeds around

the crop, making it a convenient pre-harvest technique.

The Non-GMO label does not currently address the reality that products carrying the Non-GMO label contain conventional cereal grains that were doused with glyphosate. That is, many non-GMO crops have glyphosate residues in them. This should be a major concern that needs to be addressed. Among so many peer-reviewed studies, the only one widely publicized is from France (Serlini 2014), the findings of which are upheld by a top court, showing that RoundUp Ready corn – sprayed with glyphosate – is harmful to lab rats. The bulk of the results suggests it is glyphosate that is the toxic agent, a point that is somewhat missed by “Non-GMO” labelling.

In light of these facts, we urge the Non-GMO Project to take stock of this ambiguity and add “Glyphosate-Free” to

its label for products that are, in fact, free of glyphosate. Short of such a development, the only certain way for consumers to avoid harmful dosages of glyphosate is to buy or grow organic foods.

## Products carrying the Non-GMO label contain conventional cereal grains that were doused with glyphosate.

Not only is glyphosate still legal in the US and Canada, but Agriculture Canada and the EPA recently raised the “safe” levels of glyphosate concentrations in human food and animal feed, in denial and defiance of the studies. The reason for the change comes from industry pressure, since glyphosate concentrations are, on

the whole, rising in our food, a fact that has not received enough public attention.

Consumers have a right to know what foods are contaminated and what they are putting into their bodies and the best solution is to have clear labelling and well-informed consumers.

The regulation and labelling of GM foods is a good start, but we need to pay more attention to the toxic herbicides that most GMOs are modified to withstand. The European model of banning the spraying of glyphosate on all food crops – be they genetically modified or not – should be adopted in North and South America. 📌

Dr. Jeremy L. Caradonna (PhD) teaches Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria. Dr. Thierry Vrain (PhD) is the former Head of Biotechnology at Agriculture Canada’s Summerland Research Station (retired).



# Events

For rates & placements email [datebook@commonground.ca](mailto:datebook@commonground.ca)

## OCT 12

**"A New Civilization Begins – The World Teacher, Our Guide"** – Free Presentation 7PM, Roundhouse Community Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews (Yaletown), [www.share-international.ca](http://www.share-international.ca)

## OCT 12 & 13

**Free Shamanic Power Initiation & Open Houses** hosted online & onsite by the Institute of Shamanic Medicine. Last Open Houses before spring 2017: ONSITE VANCOUVER: OCT 13, 7:30PM. ONLINE: OCT 12, 7PM (PST). RSVP by email to [info@shamanicmedicine.ca](mailto:info@shamanicmedicine.ca), [www.shamanicmedicine.ca](http://www.shamanicmedicine.ca)

## OCT 13

**Author Nick Bantock** gives a free talk ("New Griffin & Sabine"), 6:30-8PM, Banyen Books, 3608 W 4th Ave, Vancouver, 604-737-8858, [www.banyen.com](http://www.banyen.com)

## OCT 14-15

**"Psychedelic Psychotherapy Forum"** VICTORIA: Converse and connect about healing properties of psychedelic medicines. Keynote: Rick Doblin, MAPS. REGISTER [www.psychedelicspsychotherapy.ca](http://www.psychedelicspsychotherapy.ca)

## OCT 14-16

**Advanced Reflexology Clinical Skills Certificate** Course: 50-hour certificate course, home study and practicum. Prerequisite: Basic Foot Reflexology Course. \$395 + GST. Pacific Institute of Reflexology (604) 875-8818, [www.pacificreflexology.com](http://www.pacificreflexology.com)

## OCT 16

**"Awaken Spiritually"** FREE Workshop in RICHMOND on the Theory & Practice of INNER LIGHT MEDITATION. 2-4PM, Science of Spirituality Meditation & Ecology Centre, 11011 Shell Rd. TO REGISTER, call Linda: 604-985-5840. Drop-ins are welcome.

## OCT 16-21

**Breakthrough Level 1 NLP Training** through Greatness U (Board approved training in hypnotherapy, NLP, Time Line Therapy & NLP Coaching). 1-866-939-8862, [www.greatnessu.com](http://www.greatnessu.com)

## OCT 16 & 30

**Krishnamurti Vancouver Group** @ Vancouver Public Library, Board Breakout Room, 350 W. Georgia St. 1-5PM. Free video showing & dialogue! [www.meetup.com/Krishnamurti-Vancouver-Group](http://www.meetup.com/Krishnamurti-Vancouver-Group)

## OCT 18

**"Awaken Spiritually" FREE Workshop** in VANCOUVER on the Theory & Practice of INNER LIGHT MEDITATION. 6-8:30 PM, Pacific Institute of Reflexology, downstairs in seminar room, 535 West 10 Ave., Free Parking in Vancity Parking Lot. TO REGISTER, call Linda: 604-985-5840. Drop-ins are welcome.

## OCT 20

**Free lecture by Todd Caldecott**, author of Food As Medicine on the venerable Vajracharya medical tradition of Kathmandu. 6:30-8PM, Banyen Books, 3608 West 4th Ave., Vancouver. [www.banyen.com](http://www.banyen.com)

## OCT 21-22

**T & T Spiritual & Wellness Connections** Psychic & Wellness Event: Best Western Coquitlam, 319 North Rd. Friday 4-9PM with free Demonstrations of different reading modalities & the opportunity to win a Gift basket worth \$1,000. Saturday 10AM-8PM. Reader, Healers, Vendors & Seminars. Serving our Community. For more information, please visit [www.tandtvancover.com](http://www.tandtvancover.com)

## OCT 22

**Christian Science lecture** with Fujiko Signs CSB. "Love without limit, Life without fear." 11AM, Free, Visitors Centre, VanDusen Garden, 5251 Oak Street.

## Oct 25

**Free Bio-Energy Seminar:** 'Law of Attraction and Healing' with Michael D'Alton [www.energyseminar.eventbrite.com](http://www.energyseminar.eventbrite.com) [www.daltonsbio.com](http://www.daltonsbio.com) 604-612-0941

## OCT 25-NOV 10

**Whistler NLP & Hypnosis Certification Trainings:** For NLP Practitioners, Master Practitioners & hypnotists wanting to take their skills to the next level in BC. [www.greatnessu.com](http://www.greatnessu.com), 1-866-939-8862.

## OCT 26

**"Premier Clark's \$9 billion heist"** – Learn all about it at the upcoming Town Hall meeting for Site C dam. Hosted by Wilderness Committee and Council of Canadians. 7-9PM, Roundhouse Community Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver. Everyone welcome. With Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), Emma Gilchrist (DeSmog Canada) & Ben Parfitt Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA). Visit [www.wildernesscommittee.org](http://www.wildernesscommittee.org), 604-683-8220 or [www.canadians.org](http://www.canadians.org), 604-688-8846.

## OCT 28-30

**Tao: The Way Of All Life** - Beyond mind over matter, enter the universe of soul over matter! 10AM-5PM, 1128 West Broadway, 778-379-9920, SoulMindBodyHealingCenter.com

## NOV 2

**Clearmind presents "Creativity Unmasked"** with Wendy Noel, Karen Goodfellow & Olivia Nelson. H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut St., Vancouver. 7:30PM sharp. Free entry with display ad on this page. [www.clearmind.com](http://www.clearmind.com)

## NOV 4-6

**Basic Holistic Foot Reflexology Certificate** Weekend: Introduction Fri 7:30PM, \$10; Course \$395 + GST. Pacific Institute of Reflexology (604) 875-8818, [www.pacificreflexology.com](http://www.pacificreflexology.com)

## NOV 5

**PJSOM presents Pandit Suman Ghosh**, Vocal Indian Classical Recital, Saturday, Nov. 5,

Burnaby Hall, 7837 Canada Way, 5PM. Tickets \$25 with snacks, 604-879-8319.

## NOV 5-6

**Vancouver Health Show:** exhibits, seminars, health experts, sampling, shopping & more, Vancouver Convention Centre. Grand prize draw: weekend at Kingfisher Oceanside Resort & Spa. Seminar schedules at [www.thehealthshows.com](http://www.thehealthshows.com)

## NOV 11

**"Reach Your Own Metamorphosis"** – Join Anya Petrovic for a FREE introductory evening to learn about Tesla Metamorphosis. 7PM, Park Inn & Suites by Radisson, Oak Hall, 898 W. Broadway, Vancouver. Info: Svetlana Vladikovic 604-761-7561. Register for seminars at [www.TeslaMetamorphosis.com](http://www.TeslaMetamorphosis.com)

## NOV 12-13

**Become a Certified Life Coach** or Executive Coach: This 2-day intensive will teach you everything you need to know to succeed. Only Certified Coaches Federation graduates earn the esteemed Certified Life Coach Practitioner designations. Register at 866-455-2155 or 403-389-1190 or [www.certifiedcoachesfederation.com](http://www.certifiedcoachesfederation.com)

## NOV 19

**Free Open House** at the Institute of Holistic Nutrition (Vancouver): Course/Career opportunities, exhibits, lectures & more. 10AM-3:30PM, 604 West Broadway, Ste. 300. 604-558-4000. Lecture descriptions at [www.instituteofholisticnutrition.com](http://www.instituteofholisticnutrition.com)

## THURSDAYS

**Free class, Parkinson's Support Group:** 2nd & 4th Thursday each month, 1-2 PM: St. Mary's Anglican Church, 2490 W. 37th Ave. More info: Christina, [www.mindfulmovementtherapy.ca](http://www.mindfulmovementtherapy.ca), 604-649-8522.

## FRIDAYS

**Soul Healing Evening** – Each week features different experience using song-dance, pets, films with social after. 7PM, 1128 West Broadway, 778-379-9920, [www.SoulMindBodyHealingCenter.com](http://www.SoulMindBodyHealingCenter.com)

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**OCTOBER SPECIAL:** Two weight management/overeating sessions for the price of one. Treatment that's affordable, fast and effective. Clinical hypnosis. Extended health coverage. With Louise Evans, Sparkhypnotherapy.com 604-773-5595 or 604-522-0257.

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...*Health Canada* from pg. 7

however, also include some specific plants and plant extracts that were deemed to require the direct management of doctors and pharmacists. Anyone familiar with the *Natural Health Product Regulations* understands that anything on the prescription drug list cannot be in a natural health product.

Everything with the prescription drug list was fine for decades. The list made it abundantly clear as to what was a prescription drug and what was not a prescription drug. If a chemical or a plant was on the list, it was a prescription drug. If a chemical or a plant was not on the list, it was not a prescription drug. This was Health Canada's interpretation of the law until roughly 2007. Then Health Canada changed its interpretation so that anything was a prescription drug if a prescription drug could be extracted from it.

The problem with this approach is that prescription drugs can be extracted from many common food and natural product ingredients. For example, common things like chocolate, tea, coffee, eggs and broccoli all contain prescription drugs, in that with enough lab work, you can extract a substance on the prescription drug list from them. It is likely that most multi-ingredient natural health products, and many single ingredient ones, could be deemed to be prescription drugs if enough lab work was done by Health Canada. *Strauss Enterprises* challenged this new interpretation and lost.

The effect of the *Strauss* decision is that now it can no longer be said with any certainty what a prescription drug is. Before the decision, anyone could look at the very clear list and know if a product was or was not a prescription drug. Now if a client asked me in my law practice, for many products the answer would be, "It depends on whether Health Canada decides to target you for attack." In short, for a large number of multi-ingredient products, if Health Canada decides they want to remove the product from the market, they can with this new interpretation.



## If *Wookey* is correct, how can alcohol and cigarettes be left on the market without drug approval?

The significant problem with this is that the rule of law depends on certainty. Whereas, before there was certainty, now there is complete uncertainty. Now Health Canada has complete discretion as to whether or not to target a product, which to the rest of the rational universe is not a prescription drug. This creates tyranny, which simply is the unfettered exercise of discretion. The unfortunate side effect of the Court siding with Health Canada on this issue is that it undermines confidence in the law. When there is no certainty, and when the state can arbitrarily decide whom to attack, confidence in the system is lost.

The decision of *R. v. Wookey*, which came out in August, makes this uncertainty even worse. In *Wookey*, a company was selling a chemical called BZP. BZP can

act like an amphetamine, but it was not listed as a controlled drug in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* at the time. I say "at the time" as shortly after BZP was listed as a controlled drug, which made it clear to all that it could not be sold. Health Canada could have accepted there was a gap in the law that was quickly fixed. Rather, the State decided it was necessary to charge Mr. Wookey with something, despite his reasonable reliance on the apparent law at the time. The State used the *Food and Drugs Act* to charge Mr. Wookey, alleging that the definition of "drug" in that Act included substances sold for recreational purposes.

Up until the *Wookey* decision, the definition of "drug" was not concise, but there was a longstanding



## Common things like chocolate, tea, coffee, eggs and broccoli all contain prescription drugs, in that with enough lab work, you can extract a substance on the prescription drug list from them.

consensus and understanding that it covered substances that were being made, sold or advertised for a therapeutic or medicinal purpose. Food, which is clearly necessary for health, and which affects all of our cells, let alone all of our biological functions, was not a "drug" unless being made, sold or advertised for a medicinal purpose. For example, parsley that you buy in the vegetable section of your grocery store was not a drug when you bought it as a food. However, when it was sold for a medicinal purpose it was a drug and subject to the drug regulations. This is why some parsley is sold as a natural health product with a Health Canada licence as a drug (natural health products are a category of drug).

The definition of "drug" includes the words: "drug includes any substance or mixture of substances... for use in modifying organic functions in human beings." Prior to *Wookey*, it was clear that these words, in the context of the entire definition, were restricted to changes for a medicinal or therapeutic purpose. However, the Ontario Court of Appeal in *Wookey* found that they apply generally to any substance that modifies an organic function in human beings regardless of the purpose or intent. I cannot think of a single food that does not modify an organic function. For example, water clearly does, especially when a person is dehydrated. If anyone had approached my law office asking for something like BZP to be licensed as a drug when the purpose of them selling it was to create euphoria, we would have advised them it could not be licensed as a drug, as euphoria as recreation is not a medicinal or therapeutic purpose. If pleasure now makes a product a drug, cheesecake advertised as delicious is a drug. Cheesecake certainly

modifies the organic function of your taste buds, and then a series of biological process along the way to excretion. If *Wookey* is correct, how can alcohol and cigarettes be left on the market without drug approval?


The effect of the *Wookey* decision is twofold. First, it creates confusion and uncertainty for anyone selling substances that are ingested or might moisturize the skin. Second, it gives Health Canada almost unfettered discretion to destroy anyone who would have previously been legally selling a food or item fully believing they were in compliance with the law.

People who act as NHP consultants are still going to have to pretend that, under the Act, there are four distinct categories into which to slot a product: foods, drugs, cosmetics, or devices. No one is going to try to license Bud-Light as a drug anytime soon. Persons selling literally anything ingested, or something that affects the skin, will need to be advised, however, that at any time Health Canada could arbitrarily decide to attack their product as a drug. I have witnessed Health Canada attacks that destroyed small and medium sized businesses so they are not to be taken lightly.

Rather than accept there had been a gap in the law concerning BZP that had been fixed, the Ontario Court of Appeal made a decision that creates uncertainty and which leaves persons at risk of attack solely at Health Canada's discretion. As with the *Strauss* decision, the *Wookey* decision will lead to a loss of confidence in the law...

The United States, which has a common law tradition, regulates natural products under the *Dietary Health and Education Act, 1984*. Under that Act, there is wide freedom to access any natural product. To remove a product, the State has to have evidence of risk. It is common knowledge that the US has the largest number of available products than likely any other country. I personally order products from the US that I cannot get in Canada. Contrast the US with Germany, a civil law country. The only natural products available are a small number on a specific list the German government allows.

In Canada, I have been witnessing a steady progression, supported by the Courts, away from our liberal common law heritage to a restrictive civil law model. This move to make illegal anything not specifically approved of by the government is not restricted to food and drugs. It covers all areas of our lives, even speech. Indeed, so much of our regular activities have become criminalized, that if anyone asked me, as a lawyer, to give them a summary of what is illegal I would say, "Living is illegal."

Perversely, with things like the undermining of our food safety regulations, the privileging of chemical drugs, the allowance of chemicals and genetically modified organisms in our food, to short list a few, it is clear the government is trying to stop our 'illegal' behaviour as quickly as it can. 

Excerpted from the original article posted at [www.nhppa.org](http://www.nhppa.org) (September 6, 2016). **Shawn Buckley** (LLB) is president of the Natural Health Products Protection Association (NHPA). His expertise combines detailed knowledge of our Constitution and the Food and Drug Act, with 15 years experience successfully defending natural health stakeholders from prosecution by Health Canada. [www.nhppa.org](http://www.nhppa.org)



...Site C from pg. 3

Lacking any serious price on carbon emissions, local gas-powered electricity generation is half the current price of grid electricity, and maybe a third that of Site C's. Even if these plants did use grid electricity, they have been promised a rate of \$83/MWh – lower than BCHydro's optimistic \$88/MWh cost for Site C power.


The gas fracking pads in NorthEast BC will not use the power either. And following those transients around the regions's boreal forest with high-voltage lines would be prohibitively expensive, as would powering the compressor stations along the pipelines delivering gas to coastal LNG plants.

Exporting Site C power has its own issues. Independent estimates of the delivered cost of Site C power to Alberta are in the range of \$120-\$140/MWh – double the cost of local production. Both wholesale and retail prices of electricity in Alberta are lower than Site C's, so adding a \$1 billion-plus high-voltage line through the Rockies would be difficult to justify as good business. In any case, Alberta's near-neighbour Manitoba has the lowest-cost hydroelectricity in North America, and constructing connecting power lines across the Prairies is way easier than from BC.

BCHydro's only option for Site C power may be to sell it to the U.S. NorthWest grid at spot market prices around \$40/MWh. Selling power at that rate for forty years might net up to \$7.5 billion. Add maintenance and debt-service costs (at a 3.5% rate) of around \$18 billion, and the \$27 billion project looks decidedly unattractive. In that event, BC ratepayers would be on the hook for a debt of over \$20 billion, for which they will get nothing but rapidly-escalating local power rates.

Another argument trotted out is that, if all of BC's passenger cars become electric, our power needs would mushroom to the level of needing a Site C. The physics on that is unhelpful. Powering all or most of BC's automobile fleet can be done with existing electrical capacity – though many laneway transformers will need a step-up. And, in case of surprises, we will always have the power from the Columbia River Treaty as a fall-back, at rates well below Site C's.

Though it is reasonable to assume BC's energy future will be heavily electric, the plummeting cost of solar, wind, geothermal, and tidal assure the place of renewables in BC's future energy portfolio. We are one significant breakthrough in battery technology away from solving the key problem for these intermittent sources: their unreliability for continuous baseload power. For that, we have BCHydro's existing dams and reservoirs.

Site C would be BC's most expensive infrastructure project ever. Its debt funding will be loaded onto the shoulders of our children. It needs a convincing business case and, so far, that case is anything but convincing. 

...Tribunal from pg. 5

#### The members of the steering committee:

**Vandana Shiva** founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources - especially native seed, the promotion of organic farming and fair trade - in 1999. She has initiated an international movement of women working on food, agriculture, patents and biotechnology called "Diverse Women for Diversity." Time Magazine identified Dr. Shiva as an environmental "hero" in 2003, and Asia Week has called her one of the five most powerful communicators of Asia. Forbes magazine in November 2010 identified Dr. Vandana Shiva as one of the top Seven most Powerful Women on the Globe.

**Corinne Lepage** is a lawyer since 1975, specializing in environmental issues. Former environment minister, she was MEP (Member of the European Parliament) from 2009 to 2014. She is Honorary President of the Independent Committee for Research and Information on Genetic Engineering (CRIIGEN) after having been founding president of the association to study the effects of genetic technologies for life.

**Marie-Monique Robin** is an award-winning journalist and author. She has directed numerous documentaries across Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia, receiving thirty awards. She wrote the best-selling documentary (and book by the same name), "The World to According Monsanto," which has been broadcast on fifty international television stations, and translated into 22 languages. She is the patron of the Monsanto Tribunal.

**Olivier De Schutter**, Co-Chair of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food), is a Professor at the Louvain University (Belgium) and former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (2008-2014). He is currently a member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

**Gilles-Éric Séralini**, professor of molecular biology since 1991, researcher at the Fundamental and Applied Biology Institute (IBFA) of the University of Caen and co-director of the pole Quality Risk and Sustainable Environment of the House of the Human Sciences Research (pole associated with the CNRS). He became particularly known to the public for his studies on GMOs and pesticides and, in particular, a toxicological study published in September 2012, driven by CRIIGEN, questioning the safety of GM maize NK 603 and Roundup health of rats.

**Hans Rudolf Herren** is President and CEO of the Millennium Institute and President and Founder of Biovision. He was coordinator of the Agriculture chapter of the UNEP Green Economy Report, 2011, and of the UNEP Report on the Ecological Bases of Food Security, 2012. He has been selected as a High Level participant for the UN's High Level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

**Arnaud Apoteker** has participated in numerous Greenpeace campaigns on pesticides, protection of the Mediterranean Sea, ocean ecology, fisheries, nuclear waste and nuclear testing. In 1996, he developed a GMO campaign in France, which became one of the priority campaigns of Greenpeace France. From 2011 to 2015, he was in charge of the GMO campaign for the Greens/EFA group at the European Parliament. He wrote the book "Du poisson dans les fraises, Notre alimentation manipulée," (Fish in the Strawberries: Our Manipulated Food).

**Valerie Cabanes** is a lawyer in international law with expertise in international humanitarian law and human rights law. She's a consultant and a trainer in the people's security sector and in the health and social sectors. She is the spokesperson for the world citizen movement – End Ecocide on Earth - which aims to add ecocide to the list of most serious international crimes.

**Ronnie Cummins** is currently the International Director of the two-million member Organic Consumers Association (USA) and its Mexico affiliate, Via Organica. Cummins also serves on the steering committee of Regeneration International, a transnational NGO dedicated to reversing global warming and rural poverty. Cummins is currently serving as global coordinator for the Millions Against Monsanto Campaign. He is co-author of the book, "Genetically Engineered Food: A Self-Defense Guide for Consumers."

**Andre Leu** is author of the award winning book, "The Myths of Safe Pesticides," and the President of IFOAM Organics International, the world umbrella body for the organic sector. IFOAM Organics International has around 800 member organisations in 125 countries. He is a founding member of Regeneration International. He speaks at numerous conferences, seminars, and workshops, as well as United Nations events on every continent. He meets with governments, industry, farmers, consumers and NGOs on the multi-functional benefits of regenerative organic agriculture. Andre has written and published extensively in multiple media.

#### Remaining members of the organizing committee (in alphabetical order):

**Françoise Boulègue**, Film editor for M2R Films.

**Tjerk Dalhuisen**, Secretary of Action for Solidarity Environment Equality and Diversity.

**Luigi D'Andrea**, Executive Secretary of Alliance Suisse pour une agriculture sans génie génétique.

**Esther Gerber**, Biologist and member of the Forum Civique Européen.

**Benny Haerlin**, Former member of the European Parliament, campaign coordinator of "Save Our Seeds" campaign.

**Hannes Lammler**, Agronomist, member of the Forum Civique Européen and campaigner for Falea21-Mali.

**René Lehnherr**, IT Specialist, member of the Forum Civique Européen.

**Gilles Lemaire**, Member of the commission on ecology and society of Attac France.

**Michel Pimbert**, Executive Director of the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University.

**Bessie Schadee**, President of Network Vital Agriculture and Nutrition and member of Gezonde Gronden (Netherlands).

**Mindi Schneider**, Sociologist, Agronomist, and Assistant Professor at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam in The Hague, Netherlands.

**Doro Schreier**, Founder of Netzfrauen.

**Ruchi Shroff**, Coordinator of Navdanya.

**François Veillerette**, Spokesperson for Générations Futures, President of the Pesticide Action Network Europe. 

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Royals William and Kate in 50 foot Haida canoe with Haida Nation red flag, Sept 30, 2016 Skidegate, unceded territory of the Haida. Many of the paddlers wore blue t-shirts reading NO LNG in support of protecting the coast, salmon, and the land's water tables of BC. Haida elder Guujaaw with drum. Before the royal couple arrived paddlers were demanded to remove their NO LNG blue t-shirts but the Haida said "no we are standing against LNG" and proudly wore their blue shirts as they paddled with William and Kate. Premier Christy Clark was notably absent because she was told she was not welcome by First Nations.



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WILD SALMON vs. TRUDEAU

